

Heseltine backs away from contest

Thatcher sets date to flush out challenges

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine declared last night that he would not stand against Margaret Thatcher for the Conservative leadership this month as the Tory high command moved to crush any potential challenge.

The former defence secretary's leadership ambitions appeared to be severely blunted after his constituency party implicitly rebuked him for his attack on Mrs Thatcher and publicly avowed its support for her.

Mrs Thatcher, in consultation with Cranley Onslow, chairman of the backbench 1922 committee, brought forward the date of any leadership contest to November 20, giving potential rivals only until next Thursday to declare themselves. The timing is a clear indication of Mrs Thatcher's desire to end speculation about her future as soon as possible. Mr Onslow, who is in charge of the arrangements, said it was "very undesirable" that there should be a contest.

The possibility of a stalking-horse challenge remained open last night, but any lingering chance that Mr Heseltine

would throw his hat into the ring disappeared when officers of his local party told him: "This association supports the leadership of the party."

The message from the Henley-on-Thames constituency, in response to his open letter of last weekend, was received with barely-concealed pleasure at Conservative Central Office, which denied any involvement in the calling of the meeting that discussed Mr Heseltine on Monday night or the resultant message. The presence of Donald Stringer, the Wessex area central office agent, was described as hardly unusual. But a prominent Heseltine supporter said: "It stinks."

The local party's terse response, relayed to Mr Heseltine in Tel Aviv, meant that his decision to send an open letter to his constituency last weekend in the wake of Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation had rebounded against him.

The reply read: "Dear Michael, We have considered your letter dated November 2 at an association officers meeting and reiterated the following: Number One: This association supports the leadership of the party. Number Two: We agree that the issues facing Britain in the events unfolding in Europe are momentous for this country. They need discussion and debate so that they can be better understood by the electorate before commitment to irrevocable steps."

"Number Three: We shall continue to direct our energy to exposing the brittle veneer of Labour party policies so as to make absolutely clear to the nation the importance of returning a Conservative government at the next election."

But Mr Heseltine last night denied that the letter could be interpreted as a rebuke. There was total agreement between his constituency association and himself. Asked whether he would take part in any contest on November 20, Mr Heseltine said: "I have made my position clear. I am not going to take part in that process. I think that Mrs Thatcher will lead the Conservative party into the next

election and the Conservative party will win it. My open letter to my constituency chairman was precisely about that debate about Europe which I believe to be so important in the national interest and in the interests of the Conservative party."

Mr Heseltine called for a "clear statement" on Europe around which Conservatives could unite. The Cabinet had to come forward with "a policy to which we can all subscribe". If Mrs Thatcher made a speech today which united the party, "as I confidently expect, nobody would be more pleased than I".

Mrs Thatcher's speech after the state opening of Parliament will certainly attempt to revive Conservative morale after one of the bleakest periods in her leadership. Sir Geoffrey will make his first speech from the backbenches during the six-day Queen's Speech debate. Mr Heseltine may also speak.

Mr Heseltine's supporters yesterday denounced the "rubbing salt exercise" they said had been mounted by ministers against him, and predicted that it would be counter-productive. But some MPs openly questioned his tactics. Sir Peter Hain, MP for Horsham, said: "When he returns he will find that his message was not well-received among his colleagues. It was unfortunate for him and the party."

Leadership debate, page 2
Diary, page 12



Political refugees: Michael Heseltine and his wife, Anne, among Palestinian children in the Dehaishe refugee camp on the West Bank yesterday

Kremlin hint of Baltic freedom

FROM MARY DELEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet leadership yesterday gave its strongest indication yet that it is prepared to give the Baltic republics their independence. Grigori Revenko, who is in sole charge of drafting the new union treaty, told a news conference that Moscow recognised the Baltic leaders' desire and would not stand in their way.

He also outlined a structure for the Soviet Union that would make it a federation modelled on the United States. There would be separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, and a two-chamber parliament. The Congress of People's Deputies, established less than two years ago, would be disbanded after its session in December which is expected to ratify the union treaty.

Mr Revenko was asked what would happen if Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania refuse to sign the treaty. The Baltic leaders, he said, are seriously trying to leave the union, but their departure must be constitutional and agreements would have to be reached "as they are between countries". He added: "If that is their desire no one will stop them."

He appeared to confirm

Pledge to avenge killing of rabbi

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK
AND RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

EXTREMIST Jewish leaders vowed yesterday to avenge the murder of Rabbi Meir Kahane, the ultra-militant Zionist shot in a Manhattan hotel on Monday night by a gunman of Arab extraction.

"We're not going to sit by and let a dirty, filthy Arab assassin assassinate Jewish people," said Irv Rubin, Kahane's successor as the head of the Jewish Defence League, the violent American organisation he founded in the 1960s. In Israel, where Kahane led the fanatical Kach movement and served a term in the Knesset, followers promised to shed "rivers of Arab blood".

Near Nablus, two elderly Arabs were killed by militant Jewish settlers yesterday in apparent revenge. Kach followers vowed there would be more killings. Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, appealed to Israelis to prevent "a further outbreak of violence".

Kahane, a self-styled "avenging angel for the Jews", was eulogised at an emotional funeral in Brooklyn before his body was flown to Jerusalem for burial. New York police were trying to trace the background of El Sayid Nasseir, a resident of New Jersey, aged 34, who murdered Kahane from five feet with a shot from a .357 revolver after finishing a lecture to Zionists.

A policeman confronted the killer as he ran down the street. The officer was hit in the chest by Nasseir but saved by a bullet-proof vest. He then shot the gunman, who was said yesterday to be in a critical condition.

Legacy of hatred, page 11
Obituary, page 14

EC agrees to cut farm subsidies

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

AFTER two days of heated talks, European Community farm and trade ministers last night agreed a package of agricultural subsidy cuts, accepting a European Commission compromise that added a range of safeguards and income-support measures to its original proposal for a 30 per cent reduction in subsidies on most farm products.

Agreement finally depended largely on France, Europe's biggest farming nation, which had insisted on guarantees against a flood of cheap food imports. A commission guarantee that tariff barriers would not be cut faster than internal subsidies to prevent this was accepted.

The commission also agreed to transform "border protection measures", which are not normal tariff duties, into tariff equivalents, one of the key demands of the community's negotiating partners in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gat).

Renato Ruggiero, the Italian trade minister, spent yesterday in separate meetings impressing on the ministers the urgent need for agreement. Meanwhile the Gat trade negotiating committee held an emergency meeting in Geneva to see whether the tight timetable of the Uruguay round could still be saved. The EC, negotiating as a single block, is the only one of the 105 participants not to have tabled its farm proposals.

Leading article, page 13

Champions suspended

Two world record-holders from the United States have been tested positive for banned drugs in the biggest scandal in athletics since Ben Johnson was disqualified at the 1988 Olympic Games.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation announced that Harry "Butch" Reynolds, who holds the world 400 metres record with 43.29 seconds, and Randy Barnes, who has put the shot 75 feet 10 1/4 inches, have been suspended.

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Rape law

Rape in marriage should become a criminal offence abolishing the centuries-old immunity enjoyed by husbands, the Law Commission said yesterday.

Page 2

Jail challenge

The public must stop worrying about whether life for prisoners is too soft or too hard and start considering how to reduce the chances of inmates reoffending, Judge Tunim, the chief inspector of prisons, said.

Page 5

Car warning

Martin Bangemann, European commissioner for industry, believes the Community would be legally powerless to stop Japan flooding the market with cheap cars. Manufacturers continue to reject new transitional curbs.

Page 23

World power

Since privatisation, British Gas has become one of the world's largest energy companies, selling its technology overseas.

Pages 29-30

Kendall's job



In a surprise move Everton football club last night appointed Howard Kendall, their former manager, to replace Colin Harvey.

Page 42

CBI's strongest warning for decade

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday issued its sharpest criticism of the government for a decade. Director-general John Banham told Margaret Thatcher and her ministers: "Before it is too late, get your act together."

Mr Banham told the CBI's annual conference in Glasgow there was widespread speculation about the vision of Europe within government. "This conference has a message to our friends in the government. Before it is too late, remember what every person in this hall knows: a board that is divided is ripe for takeover," he told an audience of senior businessmen.

Mr Banham attacked the government for failing to take a lead in European integration. "There are difficult questions on the agenda about the nature of the Europe we are all seeking to build," he said.

Leading article, page 13
Banham's warning, page 23
CBI conference, page 26

War command agreed

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, reached agreement with Saudi Arabia yesterday on a firm of joint command in the event of war against Iraq. It gives the US virtually a free hand to command any attack on Iraq or Kuwait, while maintaining Saudi sovereignty by a joint command for the defence of the desert kingdom.

Prince Saud, the influential foreign minister, said he believed there were now no

United Nations restrictions to prevent military action against Iraq. "We would like a peaceful settlement, but that option is in the hands of the Iraqis," he said.

The assertion was seen by the State Department as a hardening in the anti-Iraq coalition, relieving fears that the Saudis were moving back to their traditional role of Arab conciliator.

Gulf command, page 11

Beer scientists brew up blood breakthrough

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS working for one of Britain's leading beer companies are putting the humble brewer's yeast to exciting new medical uses.

Instead of making alcohol, the yeast has been genetically engineered to produce human haemoglobin, the complex blood protein that carries oxygen round the body. The researchers, based at Delta Biotechnology, which is a subsidiary of Bass, believe their work could be a breakthrough in efforts to mass-produce blood for transfusions.

Their brewer's yeast cells are producing, for the first time it is claimed, haemoglobin which is structurally and chemically identical to the real thing. The process, which involves inserting human genes into

the yeast, should allow the oxygen carrier to be made at a commercially attractive price.

Several academic centres and companies, mainly in the United States, have been attempting to develop genetically engineered artificial blood. The hope is to end the need for donated blood in transfusions, which carries the risk of hepatitis and other infections as well as enormous administrative costs.

Making haemoglobin is considered one of the great challenges for genetic engineers. Last year researchers at Pennsylvania University reported they had genetically engineered a mouse to produce human blood. Biopure, an American company, has turned to testing a human-blood substitute purified from cows' blood. Many of these efforts have run into

trouble in recent months amid concern that some versions may be toxic and others, variants or mutated copies of natural haemoglobin, could have other side effects. Peter Dunnill, professor of biochemical engineering at University College, London, said the US Federal Drug Administration had called a halt to all new trials.

Trying to produce haemoglobin from animals rather than yeast or bacteria is expensive and, experts believe, could cost upwards of a £500 a gramme. Genetically engineered animal cells are also notoriously fragile.

The British scientists claim their method with yeast, a robust "biofactory", is unique in producing a "nature-identical" protein which could be made for 50 pence a gramme. David Heath, executive vice-chair-

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Commission calls for outlawing of marital rape

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

RAPE in marriage should become a criminal offence abolishing the centuries-old immunity enjoyed by husbands, the Law Commission said yesterday.

Wives who accuse their husbands of rape should be compelled to give evidence against them, the commission said in proposals that would bring the law in England and Wales into line with that in Scotland.

Doubts raised by recent court rulings should be clarified with legislation "in the interest of certainty", the commission said, and Richard Buxton, QC, one of its members, said that immunity should be abolished in total.

The draft proposals, set out in a working paper called *Rape Within Marriage*, will go out for consultation. The government has indicated the need for reform by inviting the commission to review the law. Surveys suggest that about two million women in England and Wales have been raped by their husbands.

The existing English law is based on the notion that the wife is subject to the wishes of her husband. Leading lawyers now argue that this is no longer appropriate. John

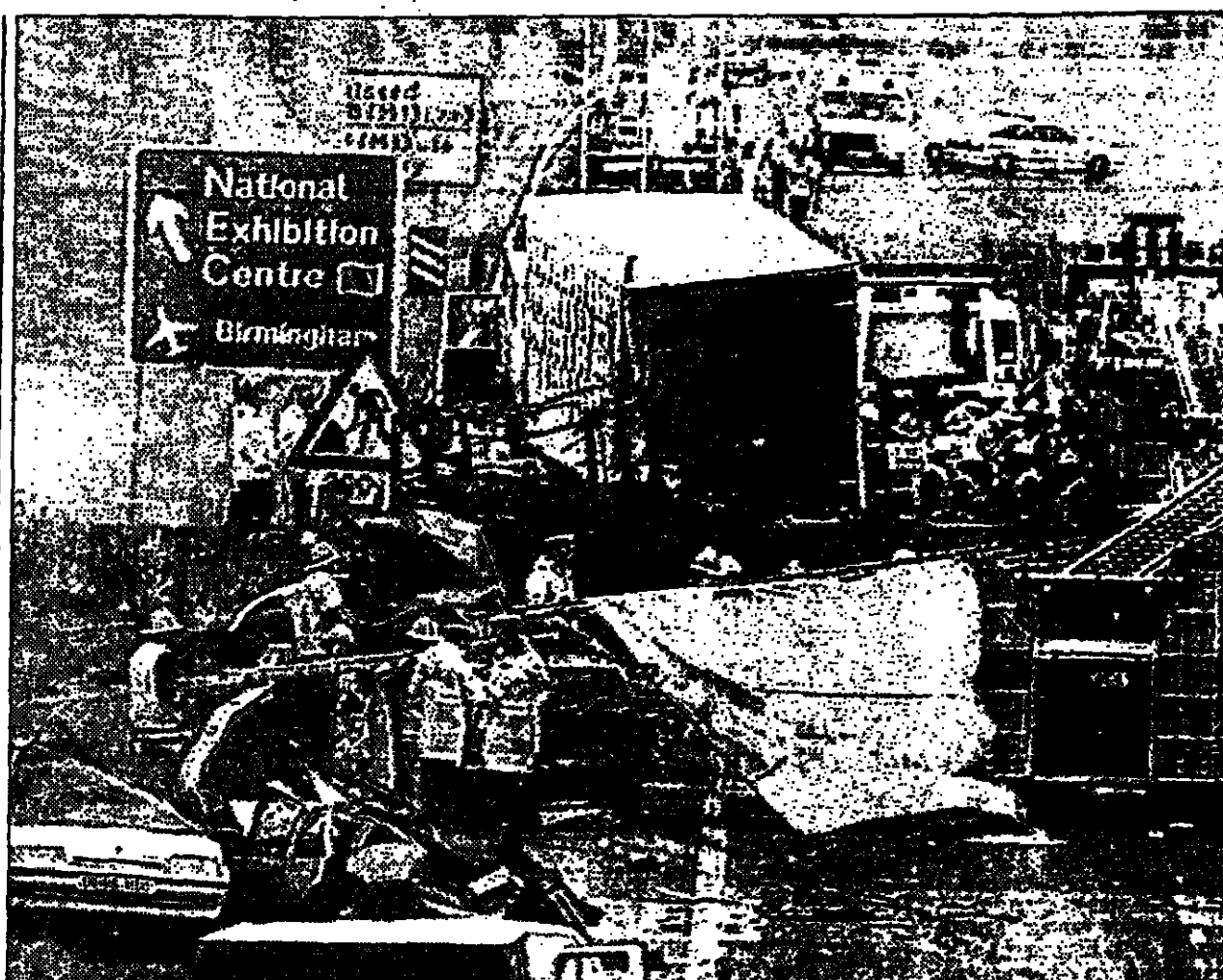
Spencer, tutor in law at Selwyn College, Cambridge, has said: "The idea that a wife is the husband's chattel is deeply revolting to modern thinking."

Professor Brenda Hoggett, another commissioner, said: "There have been suggestions that rape is not as bad if the couple are married. In some circumstances that may be the case, but there are plenty of situations where it is as bad."

At present, a man cannot be charged with raping his wife unless they have sought legal separation orders or a non-molestation order is in force. But in July Mr Justice Owen ruled that a man who was not living with his wife could be charged with rape even without such orders. He held that a wife who left her husband implied an intention not to have sex with him again. The man later admitted attempted rape and was jailed.

Marital rape is illegal in 18 American states, three Australian states, New Zealand, Canada, Israel, France, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Rape Within Marriage, Law Commission, Working Paper 116 (Stationery Office, £3.50)



Police and firemen work to rescue the injured after yesterday's M42 crash in which six people died

Six die in 11-vehicle motorway pile-up

SIX people died and seven were injured yesterday in a crash involving 11 cars and heavy goods vehicles on the northbound carriageway of the M42 near Solihull, West Midlands (Craig Seton writes).

Two of the eight cars and one of the three articulated lorries involved in the ac-

cident caught fire, and some of the injured had to be cut free from the wreckage. The accident happened between junctions five and six of the motorway yesterday morning.

Last night, the northbound carriageway was still closed and there was a 20-mile tailback of traffic south of the

scene of the accident. Police have said that they do not know the cause of the accident, which happened in good weather conditions, and they have appealed for witnesses.

The seven injured were taken by ambulance to East Birmingham hospital. Two of

the dead were trapped in their car when it was crushed by a lorry. The other four people killed were also travelling in cars. They are not expected to be named until today.

Witnesses said that the wreckage of crushed and burnt vehicles was strewn across the carriageway.

Tory leadership debate

Heseltine backs down and calls for party unity

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

MICHAEL Heseltine yesterday backed away from any suggestion of a challenge for the leadership of the Conservative party, and declared that he would give Margaret Thatcher his full support over Europe in the debate on the Queen's Speech today.

Mr Heseltine said he hoped the Conservative party would be able to unite on the contentious issue of Europe after the resignation of Sir Geoffrey Howe, and that that had been his purpose in writing to his constituency association in Henley. However, Mr Heseltine called for a "clear statement" on Europe around which Conservatives could unite. The cabinet had to come forward with a policy to which we can all subscribe on the critical issue of Europe. If Mrs Thatcher made a speech today which united the party, "as I confidently expect, nobody would be more pleased than I".

Speaking after talks with Palestinian leaders at the end of a two-day visit to Israel before returning home, Mr Heseltine said he had been pleased to receive a response from Peter Owen, his constituency chairman. Mr Heseltine said the letter had been helpful and had made three points: first, the support of his constituents for the party leadership; second, their welcome for a wide debate on Europe; and third, their certainty that the Conservative party had to expose the weaknesses of the Labour party case.

"Naturally I go along with everything my constituents have said," the former defence secretary said. "I think that Mrs Thatcher will lead the Conservative party into the next election and the Conservative party will win it."

Mr Heseltine said that the attack on the Labour party must be unrelenting. "I delivered just such an attack in one of my speeches to the Conservative party conference, but of course the media were looking for

more divisive events." Asked if he regretted sending his original letter, Mr Heseltine said: "How can I regret something that my association has said contributed to a wide debate about Europe?"

He said he believed his letter had played a significant part in making sure that the debate was understood. "We were after all dealing with the resignation of the deputy prime minister, and I described that as a crisis. I think it is a crisis, and definitely should not be swept under the carpet. It should not be dismissed as a little local difficulty."

"The urgency to which I addressed myself was the restoration of confidence, the restoration of the unity of the Conservative party, without which that confidence could not be restored. I think that is absolutely paramount, and what I have welcomed is that Douglas Hurd and John MacGregor have addressed the very issue that I raised, and have said that the government will respond to that in the Queen's Speech today. I could not be more satisfied with that."

Asked to comment on Mrs Thatcher's use of the words "contempt" and "disdain" with reference to his letter, Mr Heseltine said he did not think Mrs Thatcher had used such words. Asked if he fully supported Mrs Thatcher and her policies, Mr Heseltine said he had spent his life supporting the Conservative party. He had "nothing further to add" on the question of leadership challenges.

Asked if the question of Europe could be used to topple Mrs Thatcher, Mr Heseltine said: "I do not think that is the issue. What we are talking about is how to find a policy which will unite the party. That is what all of us want to see."

Mr Heseltine said that what mattered was that the Conservative party should win the next election "and that can only happen based on a policy of unity on Europe".

'No rebuke' over constituency letter

By BILL FROST

THE creaking of covered wagons forming a circle against the media was heard in the south Oxfordshire countryside yesterday as Conservative party officials in Henley insisted there was no question of rebuking or sacking Michael Heseltine over his now-infamous open letter to the constituency.

Local officers said there was no question of giving the MP a "dressing down or carpeting" on his return from Israel. Suggestions that Mr Heseltine could be asked to step down as the member for Henley, given the mood among many of the Tory faithful, were greeted with apparent astonishment.

"There is no question of deselection here," said Tom Morrison, Mr Heseltine's agent at the Conservative Association offices in Whittington.

The pace of the controversy quickened as it became known that local officers had met in a private house on Monday night to discuss the letter and the consequent political fallout that has prompted widespread speculation that Mr Heseltine may be aiming to fight for the Tory leadership.

Normally such a meeting would have taken place at party offices. One party insider said that the "Henley summit" took place at Mr Heseltine's insistence. "He phoned from Amman and asked that we get together and talk about the letter," she said. Monday

night's meeting agreed a press statement in the form of an open letter to Mr Heseltine which made plain the local party's unwavering support for Mrs Thatcher.

Local officers denied the claim that such unequivocal backing for the prime minister's stance on Europe could be seen as a coded rebuke for Mr Heseltine.

Mr Morrison said one of the purposes of the meeting was to consider the reaction in the constituency to the MP's letter. "The media are just getting carried away with all this. I assure you it was not a leadership bid."

"Michael is an honest man who writes and says what he believes. We will not be requesting a meeting with him on his return to dress him down or carpet him. The matter is at an end," Mr Morrison said.

Mr Heseltine's first constituency engagement on his return from Israel will be at Wheatley where he will be asked to address a Conservative support club. Raymond Morrison, president of the constituency association, when asked whether Mr Heseltine would be challenged over his letter, said: "Michael has a point of view, the prime minister has her point of view. But the country is bewildered, that is why it is so important to open up a debate like this."

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Moscow cartoon deal

By RAY CLANCY

IN THE beginning there was Mickey Mouse and Pluto, then Tom and Jerry, Bugs Bunny, Snoopy and, more recently, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Now, more than 60 years after the mouse with the big ears first appeared on screen, a new era of glass-fronted cartoon characters is set to delight children in the East and West alike.

A British businessman is to set up a large animation studio in Moscow designed to challenge the American supremacy of the cartoon market. James Driscoll, who invented the Shoe People, is to provide equipment worth £250,000 to

the studios through his company, Storm Group, and hopes to produce his own films there.

A building in Moscow has already been earmarked and Mr Driscoll will go there next week to discuss building work. A national competition to find the best animators has been launched.

Buying The Times cartoonists' work is a big business. The cartoonists' union, the National Cartoonists' Association, has a list of 10,000 members. The list includes names like Charles Schulz, the creator of Peanuts, and E. S. Ball, the creator of the cartoon character, the Shoe People. The list also includes names like Bill Watterson, the creator of Calvin and Hobbes, and Dave Coverly, the creator of Dilbert.

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Man killed wife to spare her shame of bailiff eviction

By DAVID YOUNG

A MAN who ran up big debts to create a "heaven on earth" for his crippled wife was yesterday given a two-year suspended sentence after he admitted killing her to spare her from the humiliation of bailiffs repossessing their home.

Anthony Page, aged 54, lavished gifts and holidays on his wife Patricia, aged 53, who suffered from multiple sclerosis and was in a wheelchair. His extravagance plunged him into debt, however, and, without his wife's knowledge, he mortgaged his house for £75,000.

Yesterday, Bristol Crown Court was told that just hours before bailiffs were due to arrive to repossess their house at Nythe, Swindon, Wiltshire, to save her from the humiliation of the event Page strangled his wife with his hands and a pair of tights, after putting a pillow over her face. He then called the police and told them what he had done.

Yesterday, Mr Justice Swinton Thomas gave Page, a heavy goods vehicle driver, a two-year suspended sentence for manslaughter after what he described as "an exceptional case".

The judge said: "I accept entirely that there was no malice in what you did. What you did, though clearly very wrong, was out of love for your wife."

He added: "You have cared for her for very many years. What has emerged is a picture of a man who did everything for his wife's comfort. I trust you will be able to get over this and lead a worthwhile life." The court had been told that

Mrs Page contracted the disease two years after their marriage. For 30 years, Page had cared for his spouse and, in later years, had to perform even the simplest tasks for her.

Thomas Field-Fisher, QC, for the prosecution, told the court: "Mr Page was in grave financial trouble with his mortgage, but he kept everything from her so as not to worry her."

"They took holidays abroad and he bought her anything, but it was manifest that the state of expenditure could not go on."

Page, who denied murder, told police that his wife's condition had deteriorated rapidly over the last two years of her life and became so bad before her death in May that Page arranged his working life so that he was never far away from her.

He told detectives: "She never knew we were getting evicted. I did not tell her anything. She had this disease for 30 odd years. She had been so bloody brave about it. I could not face her being humiliated."

Michael Hubbard, QC, for the defence, said: "Mr Page was utterly devoted to caring for his wife. He cared for her with unwavering love and loyalty for the best part of 15 years of hardship, which few of us can begin to imagine."

"After just two years, she had been diagnosed with the disease and, by 1974, a wheelchair had to be provided. The reason he kept spending money was because he just wanted to give her a good life because she deserved it."

"It was in the last three years that the picture changed. No sooner had he got to work than he would be returning home to put his wife to bed. He worked through the night and came home to sleep around five o'clock."

Mr Hubbard told the court: "He created a heaven on earth for her, but he has now to pick up a life that will forever be empty. There can hardly have been a man who is more deserving of so much sympathy and understanding."

As Page left court, he said: "What can I say? What is there to add?"



Anthony Page leaving Bristol Crown Court yesterday with his daughter Rae after his suspended sentence

Brussels intervention likely in BSB deal

From PETER GUILFORD, IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission is likely to claim the right to block or authorise the merger between Sky Television and British Satellite Broadcasting because of the sheer size of the deal, officials in Brussels said last night.

Sir Leon Brittan, the commissioner at the helm of new EC powers over large-scale mergers, could, however, lean in favour of the merger if convinced that BSB would otherwise collapse. Brussels sources dismissed as "a bit unlikely" speculation that the merger may be too focused on the British market to warrant intervention from the EC. They also confirmed that the size of the merger would be calculated by studying the entire turnover of Sky, BSB and their parent companies.

Sir Leon's new powers, which came into force six weeks ago, extend to mergers that would generate at least 5 billion euros a year worldwide. All such ventures must be notified to Brussels in advance, after which Sir Leon has up to six months to

intervene. No notification has yet been received by the Brussels authorities.

Officials say that a judgment from Brussels would take the plight of BSB into consideration, particularly if the ailing company stood little chance of surviving without its merger with Sky Television. "All factors are taken into account," one source said, and explained that the important task would be to establish "if we are left with one [satellite broadcasting] company where we would have had two".

The case would mark the first media takeover to come under the new EC rules, and could prove highly controversial if it eventually comes to Brussels. The merger rules allow governments to make exceptions from EC judgment if they feel a need to protect media plurality under their national law. That means the government could block the merger if Brussels chose to approve it.

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MP says article was 'slovenly'

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRIAN Sedgmore, the Labour MP, yesterday told a High Court libel trial that it would not worry him to be called a "political bruiser", but added that some people thought him shy and over-sensitive.

The MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch is suing Robert Kilroy-Silk and The Times for libel over an article by Mr Kilroy-Silk about the Salman Rushdie affair. The MP says the article, which he yesterday called "slovenly", wrongly stated that he had abandoned his principles to win the votes of Muslim constituents. The respondents say the article was fair comment.

Richard Hartley, QC, for The Times, asked Mr Sedgmore: "Would it be unkind to describe you as a political bruiser?" The MP replied: "It would be cheap, but it would not worry me particularly."

Mr Sedgmore agreed that he had been suspended from the Commons after accusing the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, of perverting the course of justice. He agreed that an MP was a public figure, but said: "Some might say that I'm a rather shy and over-sensitive person."

The case continues today.

Caution urged on Marsh 'confession'

THE judge presiding over the trial at the Central Criminal Court of the boxer Terry Marsh for attempted murder warned the jury yesterday to be wary of evidence of the former world champion's alleged "confession" while in prison.

Mr Justice Fennell, beginning his summing up on the tenth day of the trial of Mr Marsh, aged 32, said the serving prisoner who gave evidence of what he claimed was Mr Marsh's jailyard admission "has, to use the vernacular, a record as long as your arm".

The judge told the jury: "As a matter of strict law, his evidence does not need corroboration before you can rely on it. But in my judgment and my direction to you it would be very wise indeed to look for independent support before you proceeded to act on the basis of his evidence."

"Peter Harris" - an alias - was a key witness for the prosecution in the trial of Mr Marsh, the former world light welterweight champion who denies shooting his manager Frank Warren, aged 38, outside a boxing event at the Broadway theatre, Barking, on November 30 last year.

He said that Mr Marsh had told him while in Wormwood Scrubs that he thought he had

Daly new leader of Ireland's Catholics

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CAHAL Daly, the widely respected Bishop of Down and Connor, was yesterday formally announced as the new Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of Ireland's 3.7 million Roman Catholics.

Bishop Daly's appointment was greeted warmly by church leaders of most denominations in Ireland, by Unionist and nationalist politicians in the province, and by the British and Irish governments. He succeeds Cardinal Tomás O'Fiaich, who died on a pilgrimage to Lourdes last May.

Cardinal Basil Hume said that Bishop Daly would bring



Bishop Daly: respected throughout the province

great wisdom and much experience to Armagh and to what he called the difficult task which lay ahead. Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, welcoming the appointment, said the bishop's resolute condemnation of violence and his long-standing efforts to bring about reconciliation in Northern Ireland had earned him respect throughout the province.

Dr Robin Eames, leader of the Protestant Church in Ireland, greeted the decision with "great delight". Archbishop Eames said Bishop Daly's sermons and statements over the years were of a man who had made every effort to understand the feelings and emotions of the Protestant community. That had been at great cost to himself and with considerable courage.

The new primate said he was overwhelmed by the honour bestowed upon him by the Pope, describing it as a daunting task in the closing years of his life. Priorities would be the spiritual growth of priests and the involvement of lay people in the life of the church.

Prophetic leader who rose to condemn IRA violence

By CLIFFORD LONGLEY, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS EDITOR

BISHOP Cahal Daly has long been regarded outside Ireland, if not by everyone in it, as Irish Catholicism's one great prophetic leader in this generation. He has made it his business not only to denounce IRA violence on every occasion but to root out the disease of political violence from Irish culture.

He would have been the British and the Northern Ireland Protestants' first choice to succeed Cardinal O'Fiaich as primate and Archbishop of Armagh this time - even Ian Paisley has had a good word for him - as he was their choice to succeed Cardinal Conway in 1976. It may even have been that the known British preference for Bishop Daly blocked his promotion then - whenever senior Catholic positions are to be filled in Ireland rumours start circulating that the British are "up to their old tricks", which is, of course, always denied.

There is no doubt that Pope John Paul II has personally sanctioned this appointment, nor that it has been given more than usual careful thought in Rome, nor that it pleases the Northern Ireland Office more than it pleases the Fianna Fail establishment in Dublin. The Vatican rarely changes its mind, but yesterday's announcement that Bishop Daly is at last to succeed to the primatial see of Armagh has all the appearance of an earlier mistake being rectified. Though he never failed to denounce violence, Cardinal O'Fiaich was at one with popular nationalist sentiment and never quite seemed to see the point of Protestant fears.

Now, at 73, Bishop Daly will scarcely have time to collect his cardinal's hat before reaching the normal retirement age for bishops of 75, though the Pope has the power to waive that age limit. Not surprisingly, given his age, he is also a little frail, having survived a heart attack in 1982.

Bishop Daly is the intellectual of the Irish bishops, widely read and studious, with a cultivated European mind - part of his education was in Paris. The bishops turn to him whenever a difficult statement has to be drafted, as the Pope turned to him for a draft of his famous Drogheda denunciation of the IRA - "murder is always murder" - in 1979.

In the past he has urged Catholics to join the Royal Ulster Constabulary, supported Anglo-Irish reconciliation, persuaded the RUC against the heavy policing of

republican funerals, banned paramilitary manifestations at such funerals, and described as "immoral and unjust" any hope of coercing Northern Ireland's one million Protestants into a united Ireland against their will.

Bishop Daly was a graduate of and later lecturer at Queen's University, Belfast, whose urbane intellectual atmosphere is an unlikely academic background for a prominent Catholic churchman. In 1985 he dismissed a fiery young priest in Belfast who attacked him for trying to deal with the symptoms of injustice rather than the causes, and since then has quarrelled with Catholics running unofficial interdenominational schools, even at first refusing to confirm their children.

Bishop Daly has so far set his face against excommunicating the IRA, which he points out failed to have the desired effect when it was tried in the 1920s and the 1950s.

He was consecrated bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois in 1967, and moved to Down and Connor diocese (which includes Belfast) in 1982. In 1973 he published *Violence in Ireland*, analysing and condemning the cult of violence in many aspects of Irish life.

Mackay rejects judges' reform

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, yesterday rejected calls to reform the system of judicial appointments and to increase the numbers of women and ethnic-minority judges.

Addressing the legal profession in London, he said that he would like to see more women and members of ethnic minorities on the bench, but he had done all that he could towards that end.

"I cannot appoint to positions of such responsibility people who do not have the necessary experience to do the job," he said. "It is a simple fact that, at present, there are not enough women or ethnic-minority candidates in the legal profession in the appropriate age groups who are suitable for appointment."

Lord Mackay also dismissed criticisms that the judiciary was not representative of the population as a whole. He said that this was not a function of the judiciary. "It is quite wrong to suggest that because there are not more women judges, for example, or judges from the ethnic minorities, that that is a flaw in the judiciary." What was important was that judges should be appointed on merit from among those best qualified for the job.

At the recent Law Society conference in Glasgow, the society's president, Tony Holland, urged a review of the process of selecting judges, including their qualifications, training, and promotion. He said that the present system produced "monochrome, male middle-aged judges".

Lord Mackay, however, said in his speech at the Inner Temple Hall yesterday that lowering standards to ensure a different racial or sexual mix would harm the judiciary's reputation. In time the problem should solve itself because more and more women and members of ethnic minorities were joining the legal profession. "I expect the bench in 10 or 20 years' time to look very different in terms of racial and sexual composition from that of today."

Last night Mr Holland said that he agreed that appointments should be made entirely on merit, but doubted that the present system achieved that. He would be surprised if the public were content to hear that the present male/female mix might last for another 20 years.

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Rare public acclaim for bomb hero

ADRIAN BROOKS

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT



Warrant Officer Barry Johnson with his wife, Maria, after receiving the George Cross yesterday

WARRANT Officer Barry Johnson, the bomb disposal officer who was yesterday awarded the George Cross, says he still finds it difficult to believe that he is alive. He was hurled across a road as the last of six mortars he was defusing near a hospital in Londonderry exploded.

Heroism by the military in Northern Ireland normally receives little publicity for fear of retribution by the IRA, and soldiers given gallantry awards are not allowed to meet the press. The case of WO1 Johnson was, however, considered exceptional. The citation speaks of his "outstanding and exemplary courage in the face of a risk of near-certain death".

The only other army bomb disposal officer awarded a George Cross was Lt-Col George Styles in 1972.

Sitting with his wife, Maria, at the defence ministry in Whitehall, WO1 Johnson, aged 38, said yesterday: "To be honest, at the time I was

amazed to find I was still alive. Even to this day, I find it hard to believe I survived."

When he was called to examine the mortar device in a park in the Waterside district of Londonderry in October last year, he was only three weeks away from ending his tour in Northern Ireland.

His wife said she and their two children, Sevan, aged 17, and Adele, aged 15, had been looking forward to him returning home. Her initial feeling when told of the explosion was anger, she said. "You always dread the thought of that knock on the door. It was at 11pm. Two people came to tell me that my husband was not dead but was seriously injured. You cannot ever fully prepare yourself for it."

The NCO will never again be able to work in bomb disposal as the explosion blinded him in one eye and he broke both legs. He says he owes his life to surgeons at the Queen Victoria hospital in Belfast.

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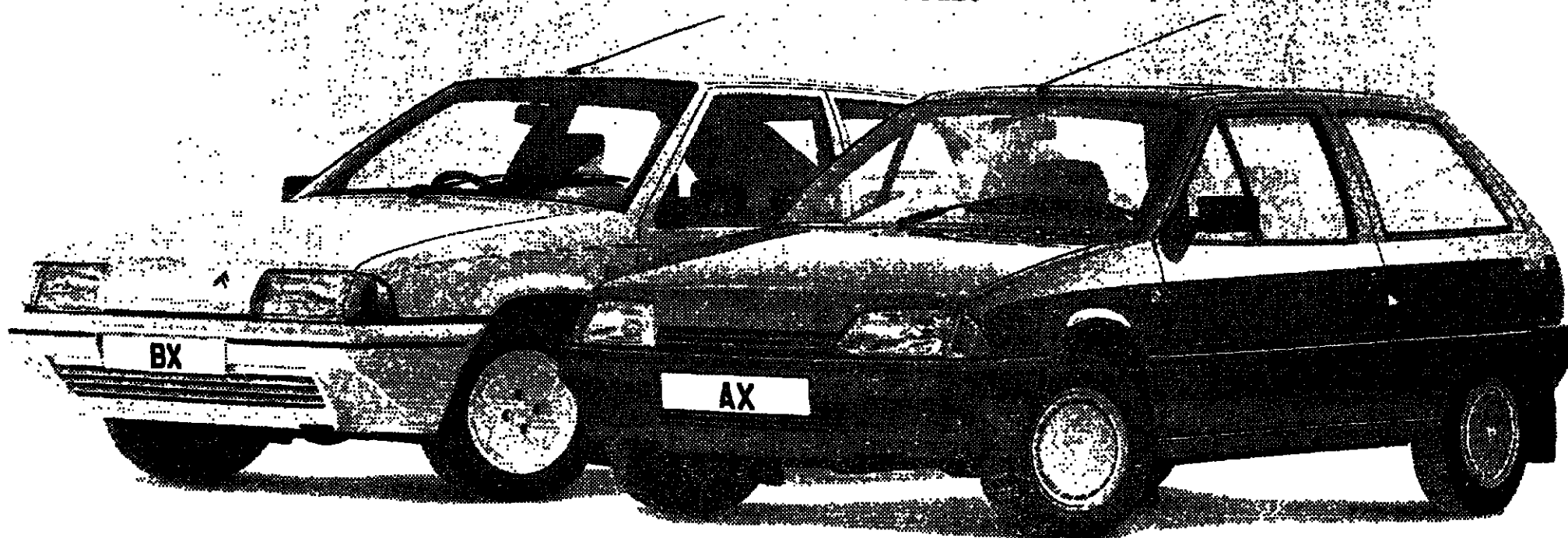
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Prevention better than punishment, jail watchdog says

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

POLITICIANS and the public must stop worrying about whether life for prisoners is too soft or too hard and start considering how to reduce the chances of inmates reoffending on release from jail, Judge Tumim, the chief inspector of prisons, said yesterday.

Talking to *The Times* in the aftermath of his scathing critical report on Armley jail in Leeds, he suggested that Britons needed to re-evaluate their attitudes towards the purpose of imprisonment and show greater willingness to fund schemes designed to build prisoners' self-respect and improve their chances of finding work after release.

Judge Tumim said that it was "very unfortunate" that the Home Office had taken more than seven months to publish his report on Armley, but he did not believe that there had been anything sinister about the delay. He thought it was symptomatic, rather, of the confusion that had beset the prison system in the wake of this year's jail riots and the recent reshaping of the prison department's management structure.

Judge Tumim, who appeared anxious to play down claims that his Armley report had strained relations between himself and ministers, maintained that the prisons inspectorate enjoyed close and constructive relations with the Home Office.

"I have absolutely no reason to believe that ministers cynically disregard what I'm

saying," he said. "In fact, they have been very attentive".

Judge Tumim, easily the most combative and outspoken person to direct the inspectorate since it was set up a decade ago, has helped to lift penal reform up the political agenda. He also encouraged Douglas Hurd, when home secretary, to devise a blueprint for sentencing policy stressing that jail should be reserved for the most serious criminals.

The judge, chief inspector of prisons for England and Wales since 1987, has been less successful in pressing ministers to improve regimes for inmates. His biggest disappointment is not being able to squeeze a firm date out of ministers for ending "stopping out" in the jail system. He wants all cells to have internal sanitation by the century's end, but ministers seem to have decided to give priority to the building of new jails.

The inspectorate's report on Armley, Britain's most overcrowded prison, holding almost twice as many inmates as it should, is widely seen as the most trenchant written by Judge Tumim. He said that it was no surprise that six teenagers had committed suicide there in the past two years and called for a task force to be created to improve its regime.

Judge Tumim claimed yesterday that the inspectorate had been responsible for many practical improvements in prisons in spite of exercising only moral pressure on ministers. "I report directly to the

home secretary, but I can't tell him what to do," Judge Tumim said. "If he chooses to ignore me that is his affair, although if he does he may be open to political criticism".

Asked why conditions in Britain's prisons were so primitive, Judge Tumim said: "I think we must go right back to the question of why we punish people. I think that in England we ask the wrong questions in that we always want to know whether a certain proposal is going to make a prison nice or nasty. What we should really be asking is how we can train these people in prison by providing proper activities for them so that they will not come back".

The judge, whose 20-strong staff, largely civil servants, is based at the Home Office, said that a big barrier to improving jails was the "sentimental" approach that Britons adopted to imprisonment in that it was based on a false feeling.

"What we should be saying," Judge Tumim said, "is that if it costs £20,000 a year to keep a prisoner, let's make sure he gets properly trained while he serves his sentence so he does not get jailed again."



Down memory lanes: friends and family of Sir Alan ("A.P.") Herbert, the author, reviewer and playwright who died in 1971, joined together yesterday for the unveiling of a plaque outside 12 Hammersmith Terrace, west London, his home for 54 years. Fellow skittle players from the Black

Lion public house (from left), Harry Vincent, aged 71, Hugh Cronyn, aged 85, and Dick Groves, aged 72, watched as the English Heritage blue plaque was unveiled by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu to mark the centenary year of Herbert's birth. The setting of the large terraced Georgian house along-

side the Thames reflects Herbert's devotion to the river and he died there, aged 81, on November 11, 1971. Apart from his verses and articles in *Punch*, Herbert is said to have written more than a thousand letters to *The Times* as a campaigner and champion of various causes.

Lecturers' strike rebuffed

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of polytechnic and college lecturers joined a half-day strike for higher salaries yesterday. They met a determined response from their employers, who are docking pay and refusing to increase a 9.6 per cent offer.

At the heart of the dispute is a demand for individual contracts for lecturers, although employers have insisted that the present pay deal must be agreed before there are any negotiations on contracts for existing staff. Nine out of ten members of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education voted last month to reject the offer.

Polytechnic directors, who met in London while the strike went ahead, reaffirmed their commitment to a national settlement, although some have threatened to make local agreements if the dispute drags on.

The union claimed widespread support. At a thinly attended rally at London university, David Trisman, the association's chief negotiator, called for Kenneth Clarke, the new education secretary, to intervene.

Institutions throughout the country reported little disruption, with most lectures rescheduled.

Guarded welcome for Tumim report

By PETER DAVENPORT

A SMALL wooden cabin acts as a registration centre for relatives visiting prisoners in Armley prison, West Yorkshire: a grimy, Victorian edifice to the west of Leeds city centre.

Shortly after midday yesterday, a steady stream of people started to arrive. Most were parents and young wives, who struggled with pushchairs and children, but there were also brothers and uncles.

A white paper pass meant that they were allowed inside the prison. It was a familiar and depressing routine for some.

One man, aged 18, who was visiting his brother, said of the damning report on the conditions inside Armley by Judge Stephen Tumim, Chief Inspector of Prisons for England and Wales: "I don't need a judge to tell me how bad it is. I've seen it when I've visited me brother when he's been inside before."

Among the visitors yesterday there was a general welcome for the report, but a degree of cynicism about whether it would have any effect on the lives of prisoners. Conditions are generally agreed to be bleak. Inmates still have to sleep out each morning and, at peak overcrowding times, were living three to a cell, although that has now been largely been reduced to men doubling up.

A five-year refurbishment programme costing £35-£40 million is under way and, from the outside, the bright new sandstone outer perimeter security wall clashes with the blackened structure of the prison. Yesterday Robin

Halward, governor of Armley, who was appointed less than two months ago, said in a statement: "We welcome the report, as any detailed scrutiny must be helpful in running the establishment. We are conscious of the many detailed criticisms of the prison, but are also conscious that the criticisms are as a result of gross overcrowding and, in some cases, poor facilities, and not of the staff's failure to do the best in the circumstances."

He added: "We will study the report in detail and make such improvements as we can with our resources." One of the main causes of concern at Armley has been the number of suicides and suicide attempts, mainly by teenage prisoners on remand. In the past two years, six young men - five of them under the age of 21 - have died in their cells there, which the judge described as grossly overcrowded, squalid and dehumanising.

Among Judge Tumim's main recommendations was the creation of a task force to tackle the "scandalous poverty" of the regime at Armley, and that remand inmates aged under 21 should no longer be sent there.

● The jury of an inquest at Leeds last night returned an open verdict on a prisoner found hanging in his cell at Armley jail.

Philip Gill, the West Yorkshire coroner, suggested that Simon Willerton, aged 17, could have been alive today if more notice had been taken of clear warning signs that he was vulnerable and a potential suicide case.

Ministry refuses extra aid to bomb-case police

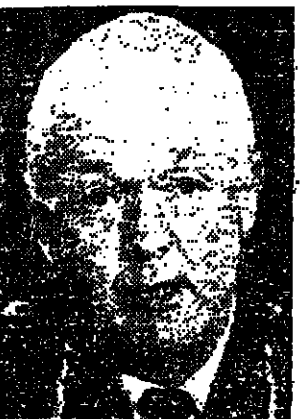
By CRAIG SETON

THE Home Office has refused extra financial assistance to West Midlands police to cover the estimated £800,000 cost of the enquiry into the cases of six men convicted of the Birmingham pub bombings, it was disclosed yesterday.

The West Midlands police authority had said that the cost of the enquiry, by Devon and Cornwall police, was rising by £100,000 a month and was threatening spending on other services. It was in addition to the estimated £1 million costs of the ongoing investigation by West Yorkshire police into the disbanded West Midlands serious crime squad over allegations of fabricated evidence.

Ron Hadfield, the West Midlands chief constable, and the authority's finance officers have said, in a report that additional costs could create serious problems in maintaining services. The force will receive standard Home Office grants to cover half the costs of both the Devon and Cornwall enquiry into the bombings case and the investigation by 27 West Yorkshire officers into the serious crime squad.

West Midlands police had sought special help from the Home Office for the remain-



Hadfield: additional costs will create problems

ing costs of the Devon and Cornwall enquiry on the grounds that it had been ordered by David Waddington, the home secretary, who has referred the cases of those convicted of the bombings back to the Court of Appeal.

● Decisions on the prosecution of Surrey detectives for alleged malpractice during investigation of the Guildford Four are expected to be announced before Christmas according to legal sources (Stewart Tandler writes). Up to six officers or former officers could face charges if the Director of Public Prosecutions decides to go ahead.

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Social workers meet today as church groups prepare to assess extent of ritual child abuse

Rift grows as police rebuff theory of satanic abuse

Allegations of ritual child abuse in Nottingham have led to a bitter clash between police and social workers. Peter Victor reports

A MEETING of the Nottingham social services committee today will hear recommendations from David White, social services director, on how to avoid the kind of conflict created by the Broxtowe case. Police will monitor the meeting and have already begun to set out their reaction.

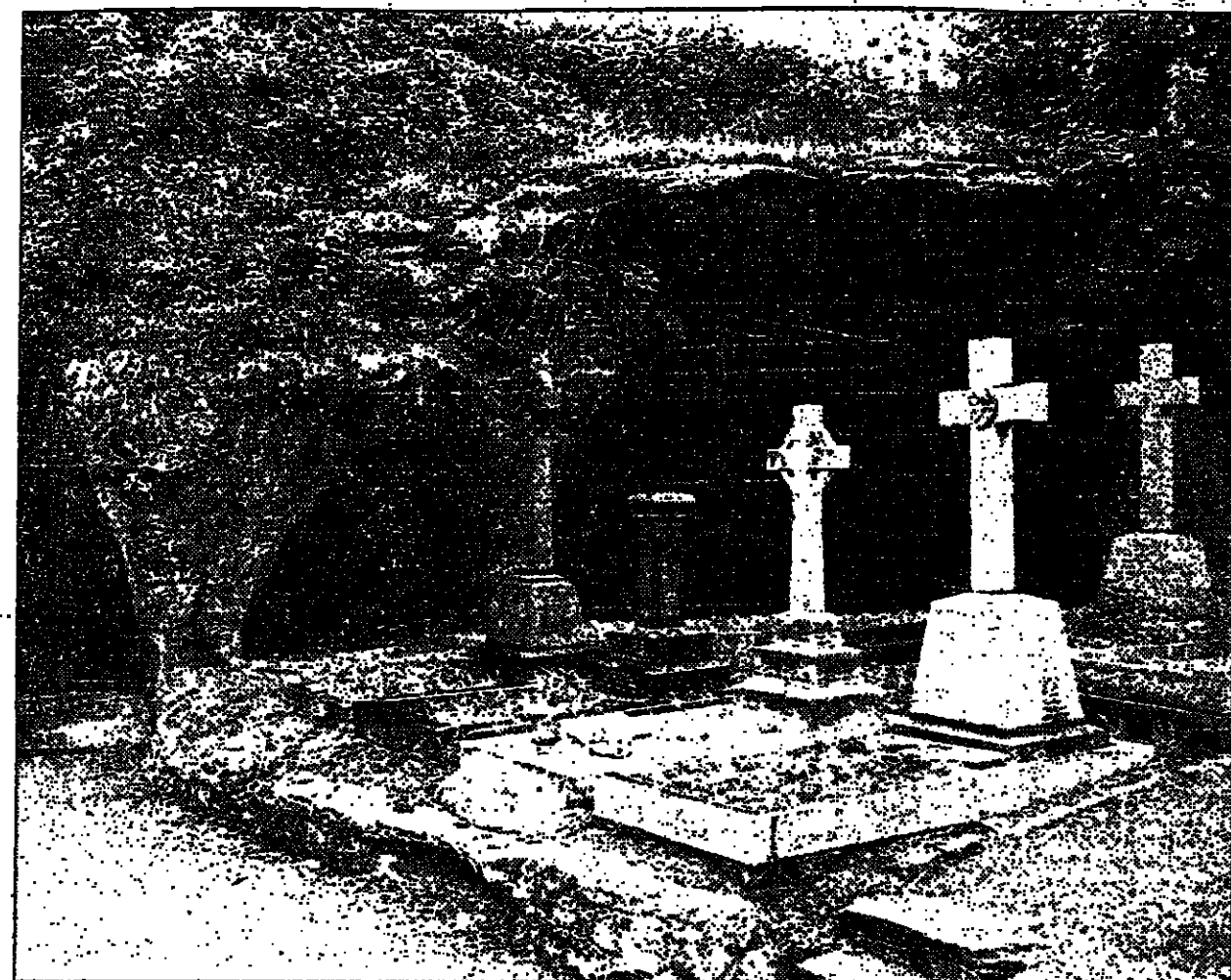
The rift between the police and the social workers began in 1988 when 10 adults were charged with abusing 23 children on the Broxtowe housing estate. The children were taken into care and began to talk of cruel and frightening rituals, according to foster parents. Police said they could find no evidence and accused social workers on the case, known as Team 4, of producing contaminated evidence by asking leading questions during therapy.

Team 4 insisted it did not ask the children any questions about ritual abuse until the children themselves began to talk. Diaries kept by the foster parents, based on what the children told them, were compiled before the social workers

began their questioning. As part of their contribution to today's meeting Team 4 has submitted details from the diaries, which include disclosures of sexual abuse as well as:

- Children talking of being burnt with sticks and being penetrated with sticks.
- Children talking of being made to eat spiders and drink blood.
- One child described being placed on a table and having their stomachs cut open. Other children said they were taken to tunnels under a local cemetery and sexually abused.

During wardship hearings in July 1988, Mrs Justice Booth saw those diaries and heard evidence from foster mothers and from two of the accused. She concluded that there was corroboration, saying: "I regard the foster mothers as reliable witnesses and as good recorders of the children's disclosures." Team 4 then wanted the allegations of satanic and ritualistic orgies to be investigated by the police and to be introduced into the Broxtowe trial. Police refused.



The entrance to the caves at the cemetery in Mansfield Road, Nottingham, scene of alleged satanic child abuse

They had a solid case of child abuse and the accused pleaded guilty in February 1989 and were sent to jail for terms of up to 10 years. Some officers felt that introducing satanic or ritual abuse evidence would have confused a clear-cut case. Some of the ritual abuse allegations were just not credible, they said. Claims they checked included alleged cases of cannibalism. Officers, including the chief constable, Dan Crompton, say if the evidence was there, detectives

would be "in there like a shot". The police believe that the controversy over ritual abuse is peripheral. "What matters," said one, "is that the abusers are in jail and the children are safe."

Team 4 does not accept that all the abusers were brought to trial and claims that there are 15 more cases, involving ritualistic abuse of 27 children, that should be investigated. It says that while the police claimed to have made a thorough investigation they

failed to find tunnels to which the Broxtowe children said they were taken.

Today's meeting is not likely to bring Team 4 much satisfaction. While Mr White agrees that "it would be unwise not to accept the possibility that there were ritualistic elements", he nevertheless supports the police position that there are no other adults who need to be brought before the courts. Mr Crompton feels so strongly that his officers are in the right

that he is preparing a report for the Inspectorate of Constabulary aimed at "killing off once and for all" any claims of ritualistic abuse in the Broxtowe case.

Mr White's recommendations are likely to include referring cases where there is conflict between police and social workers to a panel made up of a senior social worker and a police officer not involved in the case.

Devil we don't know, page 12

Churches draft guideline on occult links

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

SENIOR churchmen, psychiatrists, police and social workers will meet in secret next week in an attempt to work out the extent of ritual child abuse in Britain, and whether it can be linked with satanic activities.

The location of the four-day conference and the names of the clergymen who are organising it are being kept secret because of fears of disruption by anti-Christian occultists.

Most mainstream churches in Britain, which for centuries have run successful exorcism ministries, are attempting to discover whether the phenomenon of ritual child abuse has genuine satanic elements or is a non-religious addition to paedophilic activity.

A group formed recently is attempting to draw up guidelines for use in the mainstream churches. The group, working under the auspices of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, the former British Council of Churches, has met three times and has set up a working party to draw up a fact sheet on ritual child abuse and how to deal with it.

The group's convenor, the Rev David Gamble, is a Methodist minister and also on the council of Barnardo's, the Christian-based child care organisation. Mr Gamble is also the children's secretary of the Methodist Division of Youth. He believes ritual abuse is taking place but cannot all be linked to satanism. "I have

more than 40 Catholic bishops. He asked the bishops to consult their diocesan exorcists for their practical experience in dealing with ritual child abuse.

"This only produced one case where there had been quite clear child abuse linked with ritual matters." A teenage girl had been subjected to "disgusting and degrading" ritual abuse. She was exorcised by the diocesan exorcist, who is still in touch with the family. The girl has made a good recovery from the trauma.

The Evangelical Alliance Coalition on the Occult, chaired by Mike Morris, has

Those brought into this kind of ministry are convinced it happens

Methodists, Baptists, CoE and evangelical representation but no Catholics. Mr Morris said: "We are not interested in winning points, we are interested in the victims." This group is calling for child care agencies to set up a multi-disciplinary team to work out a definition and discover the extent of ritual child abuse.

One problem facing the churches is the emotional overtones carried by the word exorcism. Most dioceses in the CoE have deliverance groups, normally including a woman such as a nun, a vicar trained in deliverance ministry and a psychiatrist. The Rev Dominic Walker, vicar of Brighton and co-chairman of the Christian Deliverance Study Group, which includes clergy and psychiatrists, and holds annual training conferences, said: "The Church of England does not have an official view on ritual child abuse, but those of us who tend to be brought into this kind of ministry are convinced it happens. Trying to discover the truth is very difficult because of the problems of questioning children and finding evidence. To be a satanist is not against the law. Child abuse is."

The study group has published a book, *Deliverance*, which gives a chilling account of how satanic groups operate. The book says: "Many serious satanic groups have international links and seek to wield political and financial power." Initiation rituals are often sexually compromising and may be photographed to stop them leaving the group.

The study group monitors the existence of these organisations. "Satanists are at work in some of the more extreme forms of left-wing or right-wing political activity," the book says.

If some people do it because of satanic or religious beliefs, they are a minority

been looking into it for about 18 months. I am pretty sure that ritual abuse happens. I would say that if some of the people involved do it because of satanic or other religious beliefs, which may well be the case, they are the minority.

He believes rituals are more likely to be used to terrify a child into silence rather than as an expression of an adult's alternative religious beliefs. He said he knew of no evidence of human sacrifice but finds Audrey Harper, an evangelical Christian who describes herself as a former witch, a convincing woman. Ms Harper wrote a book published last month, *Dance with the Devil*, in which she claimed her initiation rite into a witch's coven involved drinking the blood of a sacrificed baby.

Another member of the group, Mr Michael Connolly, secretary of the Roman Catholic Child Welfare Council and secretary of the social welfare committee of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has contacted

Kasparov rewrites textbook

By RAYMOND KEENE

THE eleventh game of the world chess championship in New York ended in a further draw late yesterday morning, but only after stunning and extraordinary complications in which Gary Kasparov, the world champion, added a new dimension to the understanding of chess theory.

The opening against Anatoly Karpov, the challenger, was another King's Indian defence. This time, however, Kasparov opted for a relatively new strategy of central clearance on his seventh move but the real revelation was his astonishing sacrifice of a rook for bishop on move 13. The world champion followed up with an unpredicted queen move.

On move 22, Kasparov struck out with a fresh sacrifice of first a bishop and then his last remaining rook to force a draw by perpetual check.

Karpov wrote, Kasparov black:

1 e4	Nf6	2 d4	g6
3 Nc3	Bg7	4 e5	0-0
5 f4	exf4	6 f5	h6
7 Nxf4	g5	8 Nf3	g4
9 Bc4	h5	10 Qd2	h4
11 Qe3	h3	12 Qd2	h2
13 Qd3	h1	14 Qd4	h1
15 Qd5	h2	16 Qd6	h1
17 Qd7	h1	18 Qd8	h1
19 Qd9	h1	20 Qd10	h1
21 Qd11	h1	22 Qd12	h1
23 Qd13	h1	24 Qd14	h1
25 Qd15	h1	26 Qd16	h1
27 Qd17	h1	28 Qd18	h1
29 Qd19	h1	30 Qd20	h1
31 Qd21	h1	32 Qd22	h1
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49 Qd39	h1	50 Qd40	h1
51 Qd41	h1	52 Qd42	h1
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87 Qd77	h1	88 Qd78	h1
89 Qd79	h1	90 Qd80	h1
91 Qd81	h1	92 Qd82	h1
93 Qd83	h1	94 Qd84	h1
95 Qd85	h1	96 Qd86	h1
97 Qd87	h1	98 Qd88	h1
99 Qd89	h1	100 Qd90	h1

Poppy protest

War veterans held a protest march yesterday after remembrance poppies were removed from libraries in Tewkesbury and Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, as part of a ban on charity collections.

New leader

Commissioner John Larsson, aged 52, was installed at Westminster Central Hall, London, last night as the Salvation Army's first United Kingdom territorial leader after a reorganisation of the army's UK operation.

Devil we don't know, page 12

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Historic ritual of sovereignty that is not likely to be transferred



The Queen wearing the imperial state crown

By ALAN HAMILTON
THE Queen, in her major constitutional role of the year, opens Parliament today. The event is the most obvious demonstration in the royal calendar that even in a federal Europe the United Kingdom would not quite be reduced to the status of the state of Nevada.

Monarchs have journeyed in state to Westminster at least since the 16th century, although with varying enthusiasm. The present sovereign has performed the ritual in every year of her reign, except for the two years of her later pregnancies. In 1974, a year of two elections, she performed it twice, on the first occasion rushing back from a tour of Australia and

travelling to the Lords in a humble motor car and plain day dress.

Charles I was somewhat less assiduous in his attentions to Parliament, a failing that eventually cost him his head. On one notable occasion in 1642, however, he arrived at the Commons intending to arrest five of its members, who fled down the Thames. Since then no monarch has been permitted to set foot in the lower house.

The state opening is a glittering, theatrical occasion and is the only time that the monarch wears the imperial state crown, said to be the most valuable piece of jewellery in the world. The Queen is rumoured to practise the day before by walking around her private apart-

ments balancing the heavy crown on her head.

Although the entire British constitutional machinery rests on the sovereignty of the Queen in Parliament, a fact that forms the basis of Margaret Thatcher's stance on Europe, both houses annually perform an arcane ritual of pretending to keep the monarch at arm's length. Before debating the Queen's speech, the Lords will always first discuss the select vestries bill, a piece of nonsense about keeping the passageways of Westminster clear, while the Commons enacts a parallel pretence of briefly ignoring the sovereign by debating the outlaws bill.

Although there are more than

1,000 peers, barely 200 of them can squeeze into the chamber to hear the Queen recite the words written for her by her government. Space is further restricted by the custom of allocating seats to peers' wives, and to up to 50 foreign ambassadors and their wives. Several of the ambassadors will be Europeans.

Fears that a more politically integrated European Community will in time cause the abolition of the state opening and indeed of the monarchy are, for the foreseeable future at least, misplaced. Even Jacques Delors' proposals for a transfer of sovereignty from individual member states to Brussels primarily involve transferring some of the sovereignty of par-

liament, not of the head of state.

Many MPs believe that transfer has to a great extent already happened, and the view can sometimes be heard in the Commons lobby that both the agriculture ministry and the trade department have already been abolished, as so many decisions in their areas of responsibility are now taken in Brussels. Were Europe to develop more integrated foreign and defence policies, the roles of the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Defence could be similarly diminished. European monetary union and the establishment of a central bank will do nothing to enhance the role of the Treasury.

The monarch opening Par-

liament is a ritual of enormous significance and sensitivity, but is likely to continue as far as it is possible to see into the next century. King Charles III will almost certainly still be sitting out in the Irish state coach from Buckingham Palace each November, although the Parliament he opens might enjoy powers somewhat closer to those of the state legislature of Nevada than when his mother was on the throne.

Even in a closely federated future Europe, the best insurance of there still being a British monarch is that any attempt to abolish individual heads of state would, naturally, also have to include the presidency of France.

Government plans better cash deal for ousted home owners

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN AND JOHN LEWIS

GREATER compensation for property owners whose homes lie on the route of new road and rail schemes will be contained in the government's new planning and compensation bill, to be announced in the Queen's Speech today.

Market value plus 10 per cent is to be paid to house-holders and businesses whose homes and properties are required. The 10 per cent will, however, be subject to a maximum of £15,000.

Details of the new formula, which is expected to be welcomed by pressure groups, are

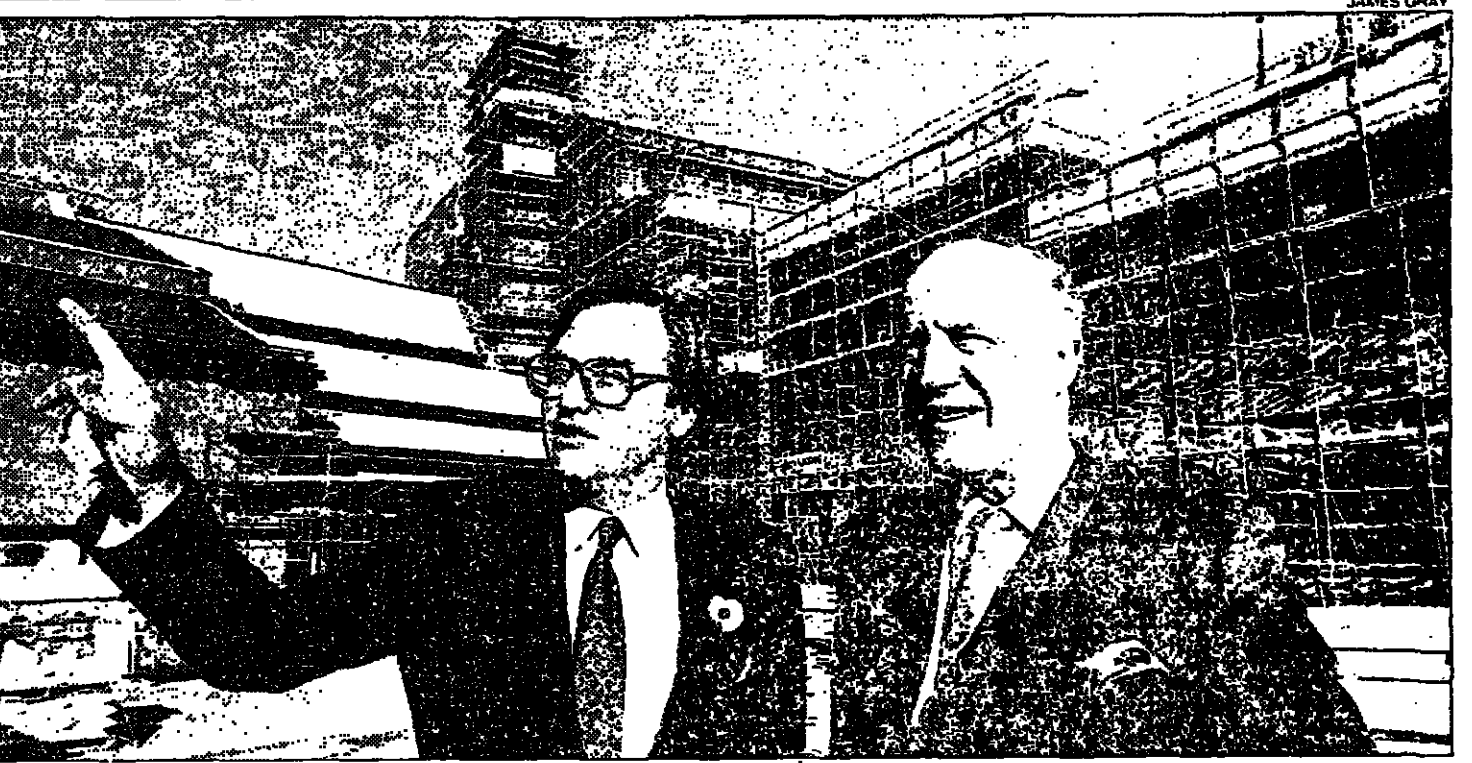
to be announced by the environment department early next week. The decision to raise payments for compulsory purchase was taken in the light of the fierce opposition to the proposed Channel tunnel rail link, which could affect hundreds of homes. The government hopes that higher payments will ease the difficulties of Conservative MPs in Kent.

It has been generally recognised that Britain is paying too little compared with countries such as France, which pays 125 per cent of market

value. At present compensation is based on the open market value of the property. Any effect on the value caused by the proposal that brought about the compulsory purchase is disregarded. In addition there is a home loss payment to compensate for the distress and inconvenience of those required to move against their wishes.

Changes to the home loss payment system were needed because they were based on a value, which is obsolete. The previous payment was £1,200 to £1,500, and it is likely it will be replaced with a single flat-rate payment at broadly the same level.

Earlier this year James Arbuthnot, Conservative MP for Wanstead and Woodford, urged an increase above open market value, arguing that it might cut delays in building badly needed roads and railways. The prime minister's reply suggested that this was in the government's mind.



Culture centre: David Mellor, left, the arts minister, checking progress on the building of the new British Library at Euston Road, central London, with Com-

mander Michael Saunders Watson, chairman of the British Library. During his visit yesterday the minister met Colin St John Wilson, the library's archi-

tect, for whom the library project is, it has been said, the pinnacle of a lifetime's work (Peter Victor writes). The Cabinet Office described the £450 million

scheme as the major cultural development of the past 50 years. The first phase is to open in 1993 with the whole project due for completion in 1996.

Ridley develops dim view of 'nimbies'

By LIN JENKINS

NICHOLAS Ridley, former chief planner and a noted "nimby" for his spirited clash over development around his Cotswold home, has tempered none of his views since being put out to grass in the shires.

Addressing the question "Where should we put houses?" he yesterday had a bad word to say about developers, architects, planners and "nimbies" alike. In a remark that did nothing to hide his disapproval over Britain's entry to the exchange-rate mechanism, he suggested that the move "would bring about such a slump that the demand for new housing would dwindle right away".

matter that could be left to planners. He admitted he had wanted to remove the aesthetic controls of planners entirely when he was environment secretary but had lacked the courage to do so.

Mr Ridley also argued against a suggestion, made by Richard Eghman in his pamphlet *Nimbysm: the disease and the cure*, that objections be compensated for the inconvenience of new development and the loss of the cherished view from their window. "I do not see how you can compensate people who suffer the loss of a view. It is not a thing you own in the first place."

Any such scheme would give rise to assessors who would develop skilled techniques in order to increase compensation, and lawyers who would try to reduce it.

Mr Eghman said he believed part of the solution lay in compensating nimbies for the disruption caused by development. He said a development was not only disruptive and could ruin the view but could knock 10 per cent off the value of a house, which could represent a person's life savings.

Other provisions in the bill, which the government hopes will be largely uncontroversial, include streamlining and speeding up the planning process and tightening the planning laws to tackle unauthorised development.

Chris Patten, the environment secretary, has overturned the proposal by Nicholas Ridley, his predecessor, to abolish county structure plans. He intends instead to improve the existing framework, requiring county councils to follow a regional structure plan policy in return for being able to approve the plans themselves rather than seek ministerial approval.

District councils will be required to draw up detailed plans, which Mr Patten sees as giving them a say in the pattern of local development.

Calls to overhaul Tory by-election team

By RICHARD FORD POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Baker arrives in Yorkshire today under growing pressure to overhaul the Conservative party's by-election team after a lacklustre campaign in the marginal Bradford North constituency.

Once polling is over Mr Baker is expected to receive advice that the party must look at the way in which candidates are chosen to face a by-election. Party officials and MPs who have visited the constituency during the past two weeks have privately criticised the campaign and Joy Atkin, the pleasant but highly nervous candidate.

The Labour leadership, after a series of by-election disasters, instituted reforms that give a selection panel, headed by the party's deputy leader, a key role in determining who should stand in a by-election. The local constituency invites nominations but a selection panel, helped by the party's directors of organisation and campaigning, then makes recommendations to the national executive committee.

The NEC draws up a shortlist from which the local party makes the final decision. A Labour spokesman said: "This is done to make sure a candidate is chosen who can stand up to the tough media pressure of a by-election, which is unlike the pressure of a general election."

office involvement, others would prefer the party's headquarters to draw up a list of 50 candidates from which the local Conservative association could choose.

There are serious doubts, however, as to whether the local associations would be prepared to allow any erosion of their right to select a candidate. As one official said: "If you want to get the associations to do something, the best way is to tell them they can't do it, and vice versa."

If nothing is done, however, the party could provide much greater, intensive preparation and coaching for each by-election candidate, particularly in how to deal with the media. Although Miss Atkin was on the party's candidates list and had been chosen as a prospective parliamentary candidate, she had had no media training and was unprepared for the scrutiny she has undergone in the past two weeks.

After her attempt to fight back on Monday, Miss Atkin opened her press conference yesterday by saying that she had enjoyed reading the more favourable media coverage. Within minutes, however, she had destroyed the image of a woman transformed.

When asked whether she would be made a scapegoat for the Conservatives' expected

poor showing in tomorrow's poll, she said: "I've had nothing but misery from you lot. You have crucified me. What are you going to do about the other candidates? I think you have been grossly unfair to me and very unkind indeed."

Later, asked whether the autumn statement had been brought forward so that press coverage of the by-election results could be minimised, she said to journalists: "Oh you just don't give up, do you?"

She was not, however, the only candidate to be in difficulties. David Ward, the Liberal Democrat candidate, was asked whether he had any

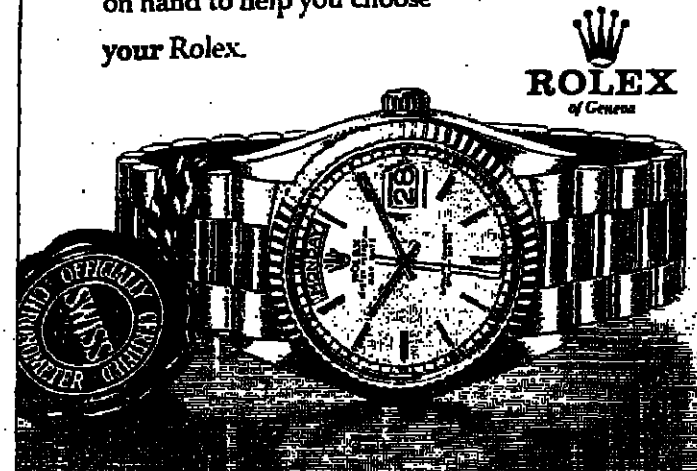
doubts that he would beat the Tories into third place and replied: "No doubts at all," before adding: "People keep kicking me under the table here."

Meanwhile, Labour is anxious for a reasonable turnout. The party, after an ultra-cautious campaign, needs a majority of at least 5,000 to maintain its recovery. In the final days of the campaign the party has made Mrs Thatcher's leadership style the central issue. The party remains confident of victory but is unwilling to put a figure on Terry Rooney's majority. Yesterday he said: "Victory is victory. Nobody will remember second place."

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Sack poor teachers, Eggar says

By DAVID TYTLER EDUCATION EDITOR

THE government yesterday stepped up its campaign to ensure that incompetent teachers are dismissed. Tim Eggar, the junior education minister, said that too many local authorities left poor teachers in the classroom.

"Disciplinary procedures leading to dismissal or other sanctions already exist," he said. "It is for employers to use them. We are not convinced that those concerned are using these procedures as rigorously, or as often, as they should be."

Unions and council employers agreed that there was no place in schools for incompetent teachers, but argued about how to remove them. Mr Eggar told an Industrial Society conference in Birmingham. More councils should start teacher appraisal.

Stephen Byers, chairman of the education committee of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, will today ask Michael Fallon, the junior schools minister, for the reversal of the decision by John MacGregor, the previous education secretary, that compulsory appraisal is not practicable. Mr Byers said that a uniform system was needed.

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Farm wrangle exposes rifts in Europe's unity

THE spectacle of public wrangling and naked self-interest over cutting farm subsidies has deeply embarrassed the European Community.

John Gummer, the agriculture secretary, said the community had almost shown itself incompetent; it was now in danger of looking ridiculous. Defiantly turning Euro-rhetoric to advantage, he insisted that Britain had joined the community to share sovereignty, not to seek unilateral advantage as others were now doing. How could they "prattle on" about European integration while demonstrating the opposite in practice?

His taunt struck home. The Italians, who prevented Mrs Thatcher putting the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks on the Rome summit agenda, recognised the truth of her warning that failure here discredited all talk of political and economic union. Europe's trading partners looked on in disgust and disbelief as four years of complex negotiations among 105 members of the Uruguay Round threatened to dissolve into bickering and recrimination.

But the issue has gone beyond a fair deal for Europe's farmers and become enmeshed in the changing power structure in the community. It has strained the links between member states and

Subsidy arguments have gone beyond a fair deal for farmers, writes Michael Binyon. They have strained EC relations and emphasised Germany's new dominance

thrown into sharp focus the new dominance of Germany and the visceral French reaction. Smaller countries are worried that their interests are being ignored, and resentment has been sharpened in the Mediterranean countries that the EC is still largely a club benefiting the richer northern members most.

Much has been made of German commitment to small and poor Bavarian farmers, the electoral strength of the farming lobby and the deep-rooted German anxiety to maintain a viable farming sector. German officials here have also emphasised the environmental importance to Germans of small family farms, and the fears that larger, more efficient units would destroy the German landscape and pollute the land with chemicals. This has been used to explain the paradox of the country with most to gain from world trade liberalisation standing firm against any easing of agricultural protectionism.

German resistance was almost overcome in the earlier negotia-

tions, softened by commission promises of direct income aid and other rural assistance schemes once the Gatt talks were out of the way.

What surprised the commission and liberal states such as Britain, Denmark and The Netherlands, was French intransigence. France is the largest farming nation in Europe, and virtually the only one able to compete against the United States, Canada and Australia. Until a few months ago, the French appeared ready to accept the need for sharp subsidy cuts. The mood and policy changed during the summer. The lamb wars, drought, the collapse of world prices, the riots and protests of hard-hit small farmers posed a direct political challenge to President Mitterrand. His battle-worn agriculture minister, Henri Nallet, resigned.

The main political focus was now not the efficient big farmers, but the many struggling family farms, reduced in numbers since the founding of the common



Brittan: allied with the Dutch against commission president

agricultural policy 30 years ago, but still a political force. The new minister, Louis Mermaz, has had to prove himself, demonstrate his toughness and regain the confidence of the farmers. Much of French intransigence is attributable largely to this.

France is also worried by growing German weight in the community. Already Germany determines EC policy on economic and monetary union, is the largest investor in Eastern Europe, has been more assertive on internal market issues such as insurance, and has begun to play a more



Delors: insisted on the need for concessions to farmers

independent foreign policy role, as in the Gulf.

France is much less well placed than Germany to take immediate advantage of a wider, freer world market, and would much rather see a delay in the Uruguay Round than something that disadvantaged its vital agricultural exports.

Ireland has least to gain from Gatt: a trade-off of agriculture, its main export, for goods and services does not bring any benefit. Ireland, sheltering behind Germany, was also deeply worried by the commission offer. Only when reassured that export subsidies,

vital to Irish exports, would not be negotiated separately was Ireland ready to accept the package.

Spain, Greece, Portugal and, to a lesser extent, Italy were suspicious of any package that laid the same burden of cuts on them as on northern farmers. They have missed out in the big farming boom, and Spain and Portugal are limited even in what they can sell to other EC members by transition arrangements in treaties of accession. They were determined not to allow the common agricultural policy to disappear before the benefits began to flow.

No country has wanted to lead the resistance, or be seen as a Gatt spoiler. The smaller nations have sheltered behind France and Germany. France has created a smokescreen with worries that abandonment of community preference could open EC markets to a flood of cheap agricultural imports. Paris has begun to suggest that the blame lies not in Europe but with the Americans for forcing artificial deadlines on Gatt—even though France, together with all EC members, agreed four years ago to the current timetable.

Italy had most to lose, in prestige and realisation of its presidential aims for the community. The Italians worked behind the scenes over the past week, but could press too hard. They need

the Franco-German alliance to realise political union and EMU. They are falling behind with other agricultural measures and with the many internal market directives relating to agriculture.

Mr Gummer was no ally for the Italians. His stridency and Britain's new *communautaire* spirit carried less weight after the Rome summit. And The Netherlands and Denmark have been reluctant to speak out so forcefully.

Farming lies at the foundation of the EC. Commissioners, officially impartial, have reflected national attitudes: Sir Leon Brittan and Frans Andriessen, liberal British and Dutch commissioners, have been ranged against Raymond MacSharry and Jacques Delors, the Irish and French commissioners who have insisted on the need for concessions to farmers. The bitterness of their arguments, delaying even the finalisation of the Brussels package, has not encouraged agreement.

If Gatt fails in the final round, as seems increasingly likely, the embarrassment will be the deeper for the EC as it will happen here, when 105 national delegations arrive in Brussels next month for make-or-break negotiations.

Labour and the EC, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 13

Shadow of violence hangs over Bolshevik anniversary parades

FROM MARY DELEVSKY IN MOSCOW

BARRING a last-minute change of mind, the Soviet Union will today commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution with the traditional military and civilian parades through Red Square. But the official celebrations, being held in what are repeatedly described as "complex circumstances", may well be the last of their kind and the anniversary is surrounded by an uncertainty and defensiveness inconceivable in previous years.

Outside Moscow parades have been cancelled on the orders of the local authorities or, as in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, are threatened by possibly violent protests by groups who believe the October revolution is no cause for celebration. In Moscow three demonstrations are planned, one of which will process from Communist Party headquarters to the house of the late Andrei Sakharov for a memorial service, but a great stayaway is predicted as fear of trouble combines with apathy.

Decorations in the capital are sparser than before and confined to the city centre. The usual glaring red of the banners and placards has been diluted with white. The vast hoardings in Red Square say only "October 1917-October 1990, all power to the soviets, factories to the workers, land to the peasants" and "Civil consensus is the guarantee of perestroika". The former aggressive appeals to "march forward to the victory of socialism" and suchlike are not in evidence.

The Moscow military parade is going ahead only on the personal insistence of President Gorbachev, against the advice of the city authorities. They have given a warning at least twice of the extreme social tension in the capital and the risk of violence. The Moscow Communist Party appealed to the population "not to allow a catastrophe" and the police chief has called for calm.

Concern about the mood of the country and the risk of disorder

was reflected in an appeal from Aleksii, the Russian Orthodox Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, published in *Izvestia*. He called for today to be "a day of meditation rather than a day of celebration or condemnation".

Pravda resorted to seeking an endorsement of the anniversary celebrations from George Blake, the spy. A front-page picture was accompanied by a message in which he compared the current changes with those of 1917. Another newspaper, *Rabochaya Tribuna*, went further and published excerpts from John Reed's *Ten Days that Shook the World*.

Pravda and other papers carried articles by historians denying celebrations of the Bolshevik anniversary. Most conveyed the message that "history cannot be rewritten" and lacked the triumphalist style of previous years.

Across the country, there is no pattern to the celebrations. Leningrad, "the cradle of the revolution", is proceeding with the traditional naval review on the Neva and a march-past in Palace Square behind the Winter Palace. A civilian march will follow, led by Boris Gidaspov, first secretary of the city's Communist Party. A "mourning demonstration" is planned in the same square two hours later.

In Kiev the authorities have defied public opinion to insist that the traditional military parade down the Kreshchatik, the main thoroughfare, will be held as usual. Yesterday, however, demonstrators planned to occupy key points of the street to prevent the parade.

The Urals city of Sverdlovsk, controlled by radicals and owing uncompromising loyalty to Boris Yeltsin, has cancelled all festivities. In the Trans-Caucasus, parades have been cancelled in Baku, Azerbaijan's capital, where troops crushed the nationalist movement in January, and in Yerevan, Armenia's capital.

The parade in Stepanakert, the capital of the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory, has been called off because of the security situation, and in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, where anti-communists took power in local elections last week, the military parade has been relegated to a parade ground outside the city.

A similar solution has been adopted in the Baltic republics, where the majority Baltic populations would have condemned the normal parades as a "provocation" but the Soviet authorities and Russian population would have interpreted their cancellation as a humiliation. Both here, and in the western Ukraine, November 7 and 8 have been designated normal working days for the first time in Soviet history.



Taking a bow: President Gorbachev presenting Innokentii Smolnikov, a Soviet actor, with a decoration in the Kremlin on the eve of the anniversary of the 1917 revolution

Economic reform in East Europe would shake EC systems

By ANATOLE KALETSKY

SUCCESSFUL economic reform in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union would probably have much more dramatic long-term consequences for the world economy than currently envisaged by policymakers in Western Europe. The gradual introduction of market economies east of the Elbe would probably destroy the Common Agricultural Policy, create a worldwide energy glut leading to dramatic falls in oil prices, and necessitate a large revaluation of the Deutschmark in the European Monetary System.

These are among the main conclusions of an ambitious report on East-West economic integration published today by the London-based Centre for Economic Policy Research.

The study argues that Eastern Europe's biggest impact on the world economy will ultimately be on agriculture, energy and medium-technology manufacturing industries, such as cars and consumer electronics. The study ignores the short-term question of what reforms might be attempted in the immediate future and concentrates instead on the issue of what would happen to world markets if moderately successful reforms were put in place.

On moderately conservative assumptions about the East's ability to introduce new technology and catch up with Western levels of productivity and energy efficiency, the study forecasts a 30 per cent increase in grain output from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union within less than a decade. If this additional supply were sold on world markets it would produce a fall of at least 10 per cent in worldwide prices of all temperate agricultural products. Such a decline would put severe strains on the CAP. If Eastern Europe were incorporated in the EC, the cost of absorbing its agricultural output would "tear the CAP apart".

As a result, the East European countries are unlikely to be admitted to the EC in the foreseeable future. This makes it all the more urgent for the community to develop new forms of associate membership granting some of the benefits of European integration.

The impact on energy markets could be equally spectacular. Assuming reform of energy pricing and modest improvements in productivity in the Soviet oil

industry, energy exports by the former communist bloc would rise by the end of the decade by the equivalent of 6 per cent of the industrialised world's total energy. This increased supply would be roughly equivalent to half of Opec's present total oil output, the report says.

Apart from agriculture and energy, Eastern Europe should prove most competitive in manufacturing industries which require a skilled labour force and moderate technological expertise. As a result, the thrust of Eastern European competition will be felt not in such low-wage Third World industries as textiles but in the industries growing fastest in Mediterranean countries such as Portugal and Spain.

In a separate chapter on the monetary and macro-economic effects of integration, the report estimates that the additional investment in Eastern Europe, excluding the Soviet Union, over the next decade might average between \$130 bn and \$260 bn (£68 bn and £136 bn) annually.

"Monitoring European Integration - The Impact of Europe", Centre for Economic Policy Research, London £7.50

Romanian homes sold on Italian TV

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN ROME

THE persuasive power of television, rarely in doubt in a country where there are 35 channels to distract the devoted viewer, yesterday staged its biggest commercial coup: the sale of 9,000 homes in Romania to Italian families.

No estate agents, no intermediaries or lawyers, just the television and a telephone.

In less than 21 days, the Italian channel Rete Mia, which specialises in what it calls "television finance", convinced more than 9,000 Italians to buy a house or flat in Romania.

Most of the houses are on the Black Sea and range in price from £3,500 for a first floor three-bedroomed flat to £14,000

for a "modest villa with swimming pool." With purchase, comes the added bonus of a free return ticket to Romania each summer for five years.

Giorgio Mendella, the channel's entrepreneurial chief, explained yesterday that the channel had already received £4 billion in deposits from purchasers for the sale of 7,399 flats and 1,366 villas. "There are already more than 4,200 names on the waiting list. So far only 8 per cent of the deals have failed to complete."

Signor Mendella said that his channel had a devoted audience of 17 million. On the first day the Romanian houses were advertised, there were more than "four million inquiries." The

houses have the advantage of being close to what Signor Mendella describes as "one of the last unpolluted seas of the world". He predicted a "prosperous future" for Romania and the Iliescu government with which Signor Mendella has close links.

He said: "I explained to the Romanians that we have the power to shift 14,000 Italians to the Black Sea every year and the Romanians who orchestrated the revolution on television in only two days obviously saw the truth of this."

The area where the homes are being sold is destined to become a small Italian enclave in the country Mussolini once called

the "Latin bastion of the Balkans". Unlike the Serbs, Croats and Bulgars, the Romanians are not Slavs but pride themselves on their descent from the four Roman legions stationed in Dacia.

The settlement will have Italian restaurants, pizza parlours, cafes and all the infrastructure of comfort without which the Italian abroad is lost. The cost of the development is estimated to be £3 billion but Signor Mendella hopes it will only be the beginning of another project, the invasion of Italian supermarkets in Romania. He has already planned 60 supermarkets for Romania, the first of which, to be called Titan, will open shortly in Bucharest.

Czechoslovak gangs smuggling refugees

FROM PETER GREEN IN PRAGUE

GANGS of armed Czechoslovak taxi drivers and gypsies are smuggling Third World refugees into Germany. In the past two days, 54 Asians have been caught by Czechoslovak border police as they prepared to cross into the former East Germany.

Yesterday, German border police caught three Czechoslovaks near Dresden apparently trying to smuggle a group of 39 Indians into Germany in search of work and better living conditions. Early on Monday morning, eight Indians and seven Pakistanis were found wet and shivering in the north Bohemian woods, abandoned by the gang of self-styled "humanitarian activists" who were to spirit them into Germany. The Indians

had passports and tourist visas, and most asked to extend their stay in Czechoslovakia. Two asked for sanctuary.

A border officer said a north Bohemian taxi driver recently asked about £1,200 to smuggle a lorry holding 40 refugees into Germany. Such smuggling is not illegal in Czechoslovakia, and the highest fine the border police can impose is 500 crowns (about £8.50). The country is increasingly becoming a crossroads for the entry of contraband, including drugs, into western Europe. Tens of thousands of Germans, Czechoslovaks and other tourists pass daily over the dozen-old border crossings between Czechoslovakia and Germany.

Lithuanian leader to see Thatcher

By ANDREW MCEWEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MARGARET THATCHER has agreed to see Vytautas Landsbergis, the president of Lithuania, at Downing Street next week - the highest-level contact since the three Baltic republics began to seek independence from the Soviet Union.

The arrival in Britain of Dr Landsbergis follows a visit by Lennart Meri, the Estonian foreign minister, who held talks yesterday with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. Estonia is to open an information office in London, which some see as a step towards an embassy of its own, separate from the Soviet embassy.

The moves show that Britain has begun to take a less cautious view of the attempts by Vilnius, Tallinn and Riga to gain independence. The Foreign Office is beginning to accept that it may eventually need its own links with many of the 15 republics, especially if President Gorbachev presses ahead with proposals for a looser Soviet federation. The Foreign Office is understood to have considered diplomatic talks with Ukraine and Belorussia.

In the first weeks after Lithuania's unilateral declaration of independence in March, Britain's priority was to avoid making matters worse for President Gorbachev, while urging both sides to begin talks. It has taken a similar attitude towards the more cautious independence moves by Estonia and Latvia.

Darys Vladis, editor of the *Lithuanian Weekly* in London, said yesterday that the meeting between Mr Landsbergis and Mrs Thatcher next Tuesday could be seen as a reward by Britain to Lithuania for having agreed to enter into talks with Moscow.

Boom in west after German unification

Bonn - The economy of western Germany is soaring a month after unification, according to unemployment figures issued yesterday for both parts of the country. They show that while jobs are disappearing at an increasing rate in the east, more than 700,000 new ones have been created in the west in the past year, bringing unemployment there down to its lowest level for nearly a decade (Ian Murray writes).

The figures, the last ones to be published before the German elections next month, were welcomed as "excellent" and "exceeding expectations" by Helmut Kohl, the chancellor.

They show that in the past month alone another 40,300 jobs have been created in the west, bringing the number of people in full-time work up to 28.8 million, a post-war German record. The 1,687,400 unemployed there represent 5.8 per cent of the working population.

This is in stark contrast to the east, where unemployment rose by 92,943 in the month to a total of 537,799, which is 6.1 per cent of the population.

Hungary accepted

Budapest - Hungary was granted full membership of the Council of Europe, becoming the first former communist nation to be accepted. While diplomats said this would help the ailing economy, opening the way to European Community membership, city authorities are battling to cope with a growing army of poor and homeless. Hundreds of people, including many children, have been moved from a railway terminus this week to temporary shelters.

Rangoon 'farce'

Bangkok - A United Nations enquiry into human rights abuses by Burma's ruling generals is in danger of becoming a farce because of official efforts to block the team's activities, diplomats said yesterday. They said the two-person team, the most senior to be allowed into Rangoon since the army clamped down on dissent more than two years ago, has met no military leaders and so far has been barred from interviewing dissidents. (Reuters)

Tirana ties 'agreed'

Rome - A two-day meeting here between senior Albanian and senior British diplomats ended yesterday agreeing in principle to re-establish diplomatic ties severed for more than four decades. A short communiqué said the talks were held in a "positive atmosphere". According to well-informed circles, Albania has agreed to re-establish ties initially through the British embassy in Belgrade, where the ambassador will be accredited to Tirana.

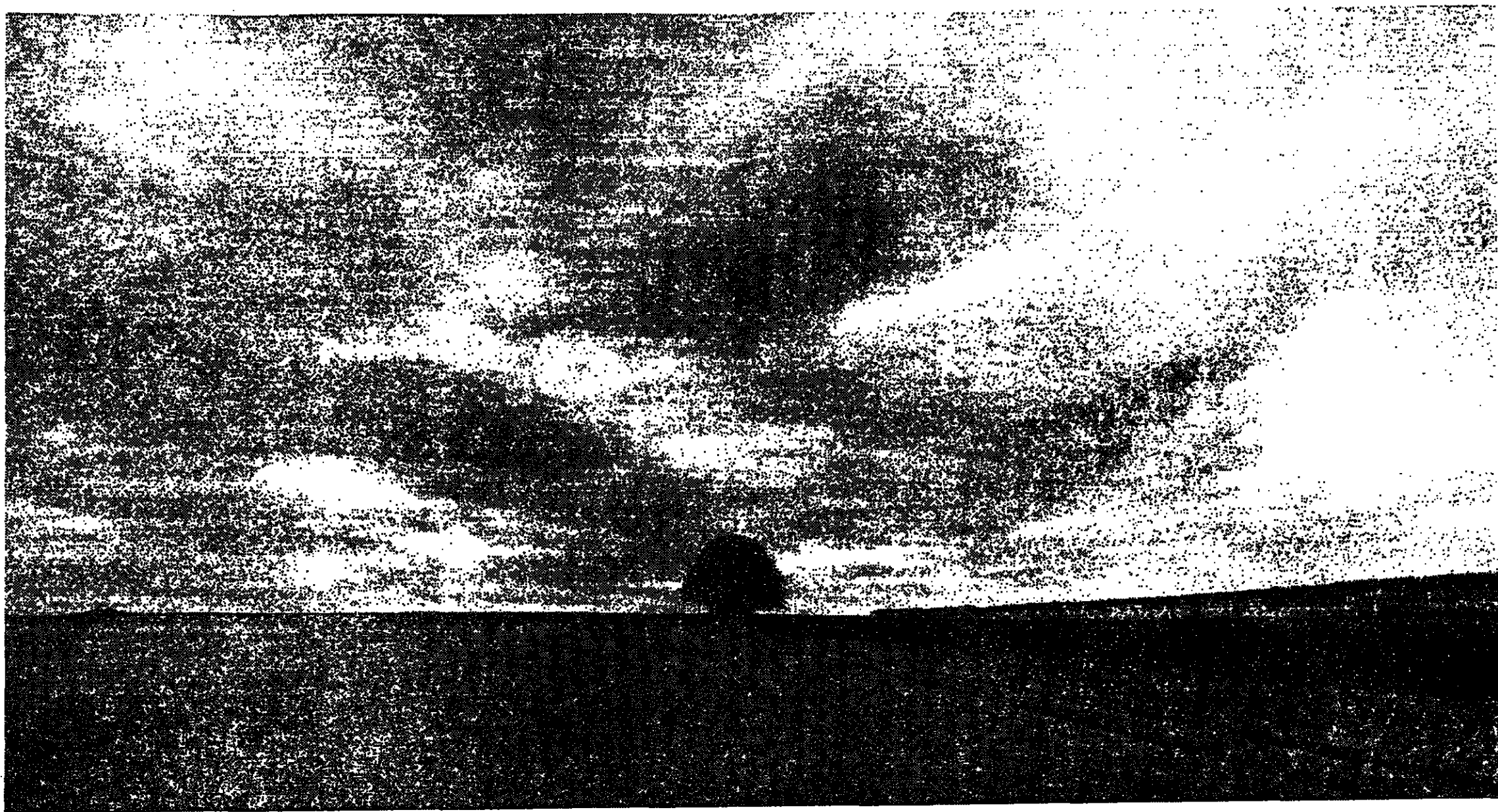
No chance meeting

Nelson Mandela, lunching with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi, on a private visit, were in London at the same time yesterday but appeared to pass like ships in the night, forgoing a chance to meet. Mr Mandela, vice-president of the African National Congress, has offered to meet the chief leader of KwaZulu and president of the Inkatha movement, for talks on stopping the black-on-black violence in Natal.

UN post nominee

Oslo - Tom Vixelsen, a former Norwegian cabinet minister, has been nominated to succeed Thorvald Stoltenberg, his countryman, as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a foreign ministry spokesman said. Mr Stoltenberg resigned last week, ten months into a five-year term, as the Geneva-based commissioner after he was asked to be foreign minister in Gro Harlem Brundtland's new Labour party government. (AP)

An Oxfordshire field as seen from the 36.55 Cardiff to Paddington.



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No respite for US voters as White House race begins

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE American people, reeling from months of relentless electioneering, yesterday voted for a new Congress and 36 state governors. They will have scant chance to catch their breath, however. From now on, the 1992 presidential campaign begins in earnest.

Over the coming weeks and months potential Democratic candidates, several having put Senate or gubernatorial elections behind them, will start to jockey for position, setting out their stalls, testing themes, raising funds. The uncertain outcome of the Gulf conflict means none are likely to declare formally until early spring, but a spate of declarations can be expected then.

Experts also expect the new Congress to be far more partisan and confrontational than the one just ended, during which President Bush and Democratic leaders worked together in search of legislative achievements. Mr Bush must placate his conservatives to ward off a damaging right-wing challenge for the Republican nomination, while congressional Democrats sense a real chance to seize the White House for the first time since 1976.

A couple of months ago, with Mr Bush enjoying record approval ratings, there was negligible Democratic interest in opposing him and the talk was of putting up a sacrificial

lamb. No longer. The economy is deteriorating. For the first time in a decade the Democrats are the party in tune with the people on issues like taxation and defence. Mr Bush's ratings have plunged and suddenly he is looking vulnerable.

"I may have blown my timing," lamented Bill Clinton, the Arkansas governor, who promised his constituents a few months ago that he would serve a full four-year term if re-elected yesterday. There are unmistakable tell-tale signs of other candidates preparing their ground, and the man everyone is watching is Mario Cuomo, who looked set to be re-elected governor of New York state with a landslide victory yesterday. Unlike Mr Clinton, Mr Cuomo refused to commit himself to serving a full term, has a \$5 million (£2.5 million) war chest left over, and has already begun making "vision" speeches on the theme of fairness. He is strengthening his foreign affairs staff and planning a trip to Poland.

Sam Nunn, conservative chairman of the Senate armed services committee, recently moderated his anti-abortion stance and resigned from a whites-only country club, while his staff has been studying electoral law with lawyers from the Democratic National Committee. The Gulf conflict

has enhanced his standing. Bill Bradley, whose re-election as a New Jersey senator was almost certain yesterday, has been taking speech lessons from a Hollywood coach and also has a substantial unspent campaign war chest, though for a fiscal expert he kept a strangely low profile during the recent budget fiasco.

A Cuomo candidacy could well deter others from running, but there are plenty keeping their options open. Al Gore, the Tennessee senator with strong environmental credentials, could make a second successive attempt. Though he is 69, Lloyd Bentsen, the Texas senator and 1988 vice-presidential candidate, is reportedly preparing a series of speeches on America in the 1990s.

Bob Kerrey, a personable young Nebraska senator who lost his leg in Vietnam, is the dark horse, but this time round he is more likely to be someone's presidential running mate. Richard Gephardt has performed well as House majority leader, but because of that job promised not to run for president in 1992. Jesse Jackson is bound to stand a third time, but can no longer count on monopolising the black vote. Doug Wilder, who last year became the nation's first elected black governor when he won Virginia, has milked the ensuing



Glad handing: Governor Mario Cuomo homing in on a supporter in New York

publicity, travelling the country to preach his "new mainstream" message of conservative economic and liberal social policies and clearly positioning himself for national office. A successful resolution in the Gulf could yet restore Mr Bush's stature. Democratic candidates, de-

spite their party's unease, barely mentioned it. "Until the first big mistake is made, until the wind is blowing in one direction or another, they're almost all hiding out, fearful that they'll end up on the wrong side," one expert told *The New York Times*. "Then, if all goes wrong,

they'll all land on Bush's neck." Another prediction was that, in the absence of any galvanising issue and with many Americans sick of their politicians and their endless, unending campaigns, the turnout yesterday would be the lowest since the middle of the second world war.

Chapter and verse wielded for Helms

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

TUCKED away among advertisements for hearing tests, Christmas shows and asthma consultants on page four of *The Raleigh News and Observer* yesterday were six lines paid for by a supporter of the Senate incumbent for the past 18 years, "God and family," it read, inoffensively. "Voice Jesse Helms."

Lower down, however, the addition of "Deuteronomy 17:15" in smaller type evoked the issue of race — one of the most emotional and controversial of today's American politics and the one most likely to decide the contest in North Carolina between Senator Helms, the country's most outspoken conservative, and Harvey Gantt, an unapologetic liberal.

"One from among thy brethren shall thou set king over thee," the quoted verse of the Old Testament says in part. "Thou mayest not set a stranger over thee, which is not thy brother."

Mr Helms, aged 69, is a white Baptist deacon known for his last-lap victories and unequalled mastery of "attack ads". Mr Gantt, aged 49, is black, and the outcome of the senate contest in North Carolina will determine the direction of southern politics as blacks from mainstream politics outside the civil rights movement struggle for national recognition.

If elected, Mr Gantt, a former mayor of Charlotte, the state's largest town, would be the South's first black senator since Reconstruction. Never before has a candidate forced Mr Helms into such a close contest, raising hopes among southern liberals when Mr Gantt was ahead in the opinion polls that the era of widespread demagoguery in the Bible Belt might be over.

In the final stages of the race, however, Mr Helms launched a barrage of negative commercials making race an explicit factor for the first time by suggesting that his opponent favoured the adoption of racial quotas by employers. He also accused Mr Gantt of

betraying blacks by using his minority status to acquire a television station and selling it weeks later for a large profit.

Mr Gantt did his best to maintain his image as "Mr Reasonable" and continued to focus on the senator's record on education and the environment, merely describing Mr Helms's tactics as "an outrageous smear campaign".

"Mr Gantt calling anybody else a liar is like a bullfight calling somebody ugly," the incumbent fired back. "This fellow cannot tell the truth about anything." People in North Carolina, who pride themselves on their egalitarian views and folksy southern courtesy, were disturbed when scuffles broke in the closing stage of the contest between rival supporters.

Mr Gantt's lead in the opinion polls narrowed to a few points at most, while Mr Helms, whose reluctance to campaign personally usually matches the passion of his sermons about traditional morals, appeared in public holding a teddy bear and blamed the media for raising race as an issue in the election.

Sensing trouble in the most bitter election campaign this year, the US Justice Department sent a team of lawyers to the so-called Tar-heel State to monitor the voting after the local Republican party posted 150,000 cards to homes in heavily black and Democrat areas suggesting that residents faced imprisonment if the addresses on their polling cards were incorrect.

Democrats complained that Republicans were intimidating minorities and the department announced that it was investigating the party for possible breaches of civil rights laws.

Political experts estimate that Mr Gantt needs about 40 per cent of the white vote to win. But opinion polls have been misleading in racially sensitive elections in the past, since voters are often anxious to cover up their prejudices and falsely claim they are prepared to vote for a black.

Dismissed Bloch may lose pension

From MICHAEL WINES IN WASHINGTON

FELIX Bloch, the American diplomat under investigation for almost two years on suspicion of being a Soviet agent, but who has not been charged because of lack of evidence, has been dismissed by James Baker, the Secretary of State.

Mr Baker gave as his reasons Mr Bloch's "deliberate false statements or misrepresentations" to the FBI during the enquiry. His "behaviour, activities, and associations" were also cited, the state department said.

Mr Baker had found Mr Bloch's removal "necessary and advisable in the interest of national security", the state department said. Mr Bloch was told of his dismissal in writing on Monday. Neither he nor John Bray, his lawyer, returned telephone calls seeking their comment.

Mr Bloch, aged 55, was a top diplomat at the American embassy in Vienna from 1981 to 1987. He then moved to a job at the state department's bureau of European and Canadian affairs where he worked until 1989, when investigators said they had photographed him in Paris as he gave a briefcase to a man who was later identified as a KGB agent. Mr Bloch has since said that he and the man are stamp collectors and that the case contained several sheets of stamps.

He has declined to declare his innocence publicly, saying instead that the government

lacked the evidence to charge him with criminal wrongdoing. He has not contested any of the government's actions against him but has never explained why he did not do so.

Mr Baker's action will have little immediate effect on Mr Bloch, who has been suspended without pay from his \$81,400-a-year (£42,000) job since February. His dismissal does, however, lay the foundations for an effort to revoke his pension, and ensures he will not leave the government with an officially spotless record, an issue about which senior officials are said to feel strongly. Mr Bloch and the government have been sparring at least since early 1989.

(New York Times)



Bloch: sacked "in the interest of security"

Gun-toting monks see off armed gang

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

MUSCULAR Christianity's cause was signally advanced this week when the monks of a mountain-top Trappist community in central France took up their sporting guns to vanquish armed robbers.

After a ten-minute shootout in the dead of night, the gang fled, leaving Brother Zéphirin with nasty leg wounds but no regrets about having fought the good fight to protect his monastery's worldly goods.

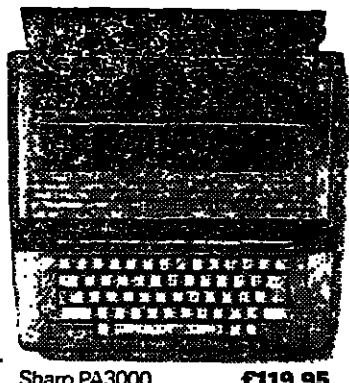
Brother Zéphirin is supervisor of hunting for the monks and led the charge, 12-bore shotgun in hand, when the burglar alarm recently installed at the Abbey of Notre-Dames des Neiges, in the Ardèche region, began to wail at 3am last Monday, an hour before the first summons to prayers. By the light of the full moon he and another gun-toting brother discovered four hooded men breaking into the

annexe where tens of thousands of bottles of the excellent wine produced on the premises are stored.

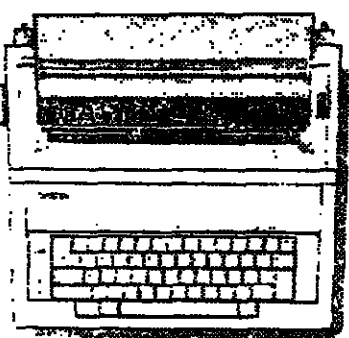
After a warning shot was fired into the air, the robbers began to blaze away in all directions, and Brother Zéphirin fell. At this point it was discovered the abbey's only telephone line to the outside world had been cut, preventing the alarm being raised at the gendarmerie 12 miles down the valley. Undaunted, the monks sought to block the gang's getaway car, but prudence prevailed and they withdrew reluctantly in the face of superior firepower.

When the forces of law and order arrived, 19 spent cartridges were discovered on the scene, while almost 200 pieces of birdshot were subsequently picked out of Brother Zéphirin's leg in an emergency operation. His condition is described as satisfactory.

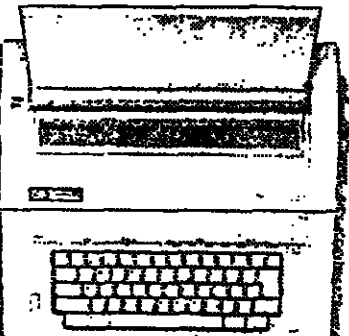
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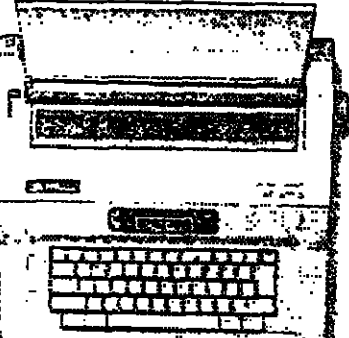
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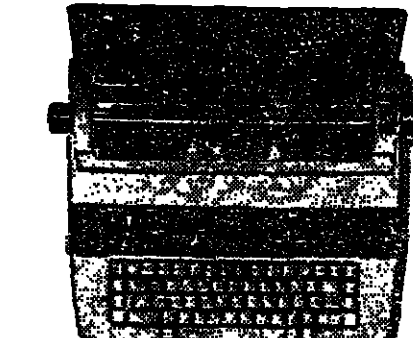
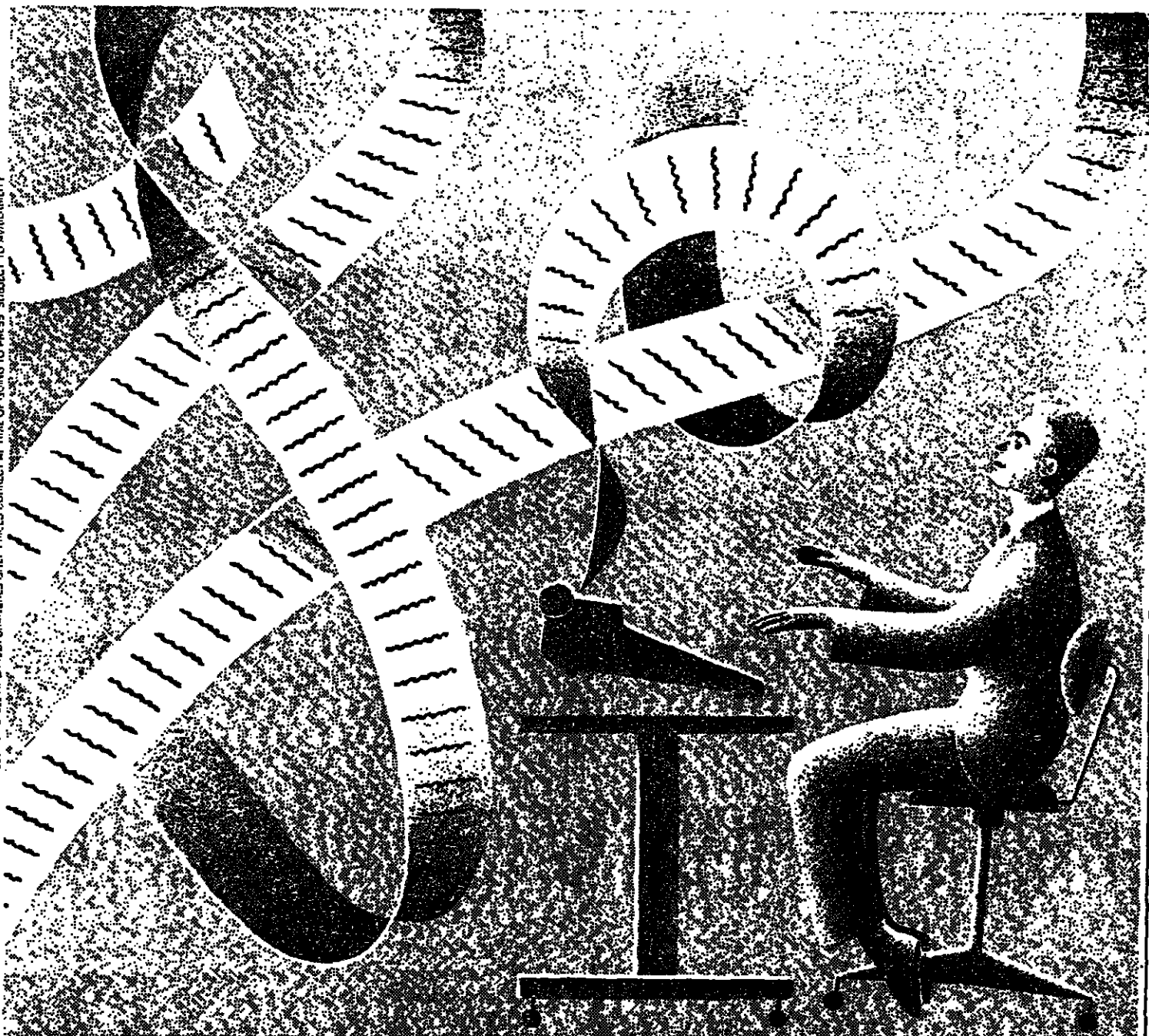
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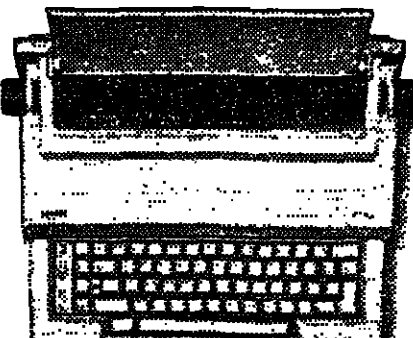
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Doubts linger over Arab forces' role in Gulf offensive

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the issue of command and control in the event of an offensive against the Iraqis in Kuwait has now been resolved between the United States and Saudi Arabia, doubts remain over whether the Arab and Muslim forces lined up closest to the Kuwaiti border will take part in an attack.

After weeks of delicate negotiations, agreement was reached on Monday between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Riyadh over who should be the overall commander of the US forces if hostilities broke out. The formula, which should satisfy General Norman Schwarzkopf, in charge of Operation Desert Shield, will give the Americans a free hand in mounting an offensive, once the political decision to attack has been made by President Bush and King Fahd.

Under the formula, General Schwarzkopf and Lieutenant-General Khalid bin Sultan, Saudi commander of the Arab and Muslim forces, would

share joint command if the Iraqis attacked the kingdom. But, in an offensive, the US general would be solely in charge of American forces, able to plan and execute an attack without interference from the Saudi military leadership.

The American and Saudi commanders operate from adjoining rooms at the defence ministry in Riyadh. They have a close working relationship, built up since the American central command under General Schwarzkopf moved to the Saudi capital in August.

The command and control agreement is important because the Saudis can now feel reassured the US will not start hostilities without first receiving approval from King Fahd. Two months ago Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi defence minister, said Saudi territory could not be used for offensive operations against Iraqi forces. Since then, the two countries have had no firm understanding on how to

co-ordinate any offensive strike.

The agreement will also demonstrate to President Saddam Hussein that the Americans now have a degree of flexibility in using Saudi territory for such an operation. This will add credibility to the mounting threats of force that President Bush has been making recently.

However, there are serious loose ends. There is no supreme commander for the anti-Iraqi forces. Such an appointment now seems unlikely, although senior military figures admit that it would be more practical. If an offensive were launched, General Schwarzkopf would command the US contingent of 220,000-250,000 men, including 170,000 ground and 46,000 naval personnel. The British ground forces, the 9,500 men of the 7th Armoured Brigade, would also be under his tactical command.

But if Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière, commander of the British forces in the Gulf, disapproved of specific tactical orders, he could register his objections. The government retains the right to veto involvement of British forces in tactical operations. In reality, this is unlikely. On a smaller scale, General Schwarzkopf and Sir Peter will be like Eisenhower and Montgomery, co-operating as allies but without losing national independence.

The French have made it clear they will reserve "total autonomy". The 15,000 French forces in the Gulf, of whom 5,500 are ground troops based about 60 miles from the Kuwaiti border, are under the command of General Michel Roquejeoffre. Yesterday the foreign ministry said: "If there is a conflict, French command stays independent."

There is no clear answer on whether the Arab forces would join an offensive planned by the Americans. According to British military sources, it is assumed that all the forces would be prepared to join an offensive. But one source said: "Not knowing for certain makes the job of planning an offensive that much more complicated."

General Khalid bin Sultan has about 80,000 men under his command. Apart from his own countrymen, there are soldiers from Egypt, Syria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Senegal, Morocco and the members of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

Iraq frees 106 to lure more VIPs

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein yesterday ordered the release of 106 hostages, mostly Japanese, in an effort to ensure the flow of foreign dignitaries through Baghdad.

The Iraqi news agency said the release of 77 Japanese was in response to a plea by the former Japanese prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, one of several high-ranking foreign envoys either in or on their way to Baghdad, whose presence Iraq can count on to deter any American attack.

Most, on private visits, are also involved in what critics of their trips scathingly refer to as parallel diplomacy which they fear could undermine the UN Security Council's calls for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Willy Brandt, aged 76, the former German chancellor and a Nobel prizewinner, is due to meet President Saddam today. He came not only to seek the release of 400 German hostages, but bearing what he called peace proposals which he discussed with other Iraqi leaders yesterday. David Lange, the former New Zealand prime minister, was on his way to the Gulf hoping to see President Saddam over the release of Western hostages. A former Danish prime minister, Anker Joergensen, was in Jordan to apply for a visa to Iraq on a similar mission.

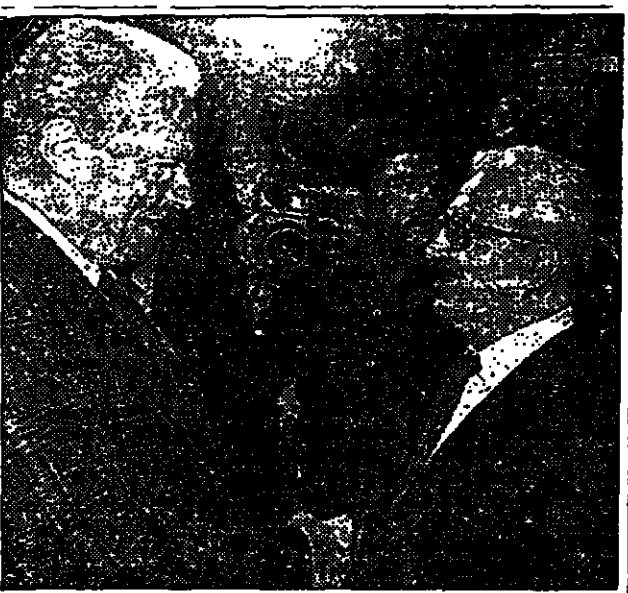
The Iraqi news agency said others on President Saddam's freedom list included 20 Italians, five Swedes, two Germans and two Portuguese, all in response to appeals from various delegations who have visited Baghdad, among them a federation of Arab trade unionists. Most of the Japanese on the list were said to be sick, old or students.

An Iraqi newspaper quoted Herr Brandt as saying he wanted all sides, including the United States, to enter a dialogue that could avert war. While the US has ruled out any deals until Iraq unconditionally withdraws from Kuwait, Herr Brandt reportedly told *Al-Jumhuriya* that

Washington could be influenced by "European unanimity".

Mr Nakasone was due to leave Iraq last night, but delayed his departure until today so that he could accompany home his freed countrymen. There were fears in Japan that he would leave empty-handed after weekend talks with the Iraqi leader appeared to have made little progress. Iraqi officials had told him they considered the \$4 billion (£2.05 billion) financial aid Japan had pledged to the Gulf operation to be worse than a military contribution.

Yesterday Japan's ruling party scrapped a controversial plan to send up to 2,000 troops to the Gulf in a non-combat role. While no details emerged of Mr Nakasone's second meeting with President Saddam yesterday morning, Tokyo's decision might have encouraged him to allow nearly a quarter of the Japanese hostages to leave. But it was also clear the Iraqi leader did not want to discourage other visiting politicians by sending him home with no rewards.



Hostage mission: Willy Brandt being greeted by Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, in Baghdad

Gandhi backs breakaway faction

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

RAJIV Gandhi, the former Indian prime minister, yesterday agreed to support a radical political realignment to avoid a general election after the expected defeat of the government in a parliamentary vote of confidence today.

His Congress (I) party decided to back Chandra Shekhar, leader of the breakaway group from the governing Janata Dal (People's Party), in the formation of a new government. Under the

arrangement Mr Gandhi would not become part of the administration but would pledge parliamentary "co-operation".

Such a government would clearly be little more than a caretaker body, lacking real authority at a time when the country faces a breakdown of law and order. The arrangement would leave Mr Gandhi with the advantage of being able to decide the timing of the next general election, simply

by withdrawing support from the government. An identical arrangement was made in 1979 when the Charan Singh administration was formed with support from Congress (I). It fell six months later when Congress backed out.

A government under Mr Shekhar's leadership would plainly be extremely unstable, and probably not last long. It remains to be seen whether President Venkatarman, who has the power to accept or

reject any new alignments, will go along with the plan. Vice-President Prap Singh, the prime minister, urged him last night to reject the arrangement and proposed the creation of a national government.

President Venkatarman could well decide that Mr Shekhar, as the leader of a faction of a party that had lost a confidence vote, was not entitled to be prime minister. Mr Gandhi, whose Congress (I) is the biggest single party in parliament but lacks an outright majority, might then be invited to form a government.

But he is reluctant to do so at such an explosive time in case it damages his chances in a general election.

One crucial question remains unanswered: how many MPs can Mr Shekhar count on in his attempt to form a viable breakaway group? The Speaker of the Lok Sabha yesterday refused to recognise the Shekhar faction as a separate party or grouping, saying that 25 pro-Shekhar members of the lower house expelled from the Janata Dal would be regarded as "unattached". The true measure of Mr Shekhar's support will not be clear until today's vote.

If he falls short of 47 — a third of the party — the breakaway will be declared void under an anti-defection law.

Sharif sworn in after protest

From ZAHID HUSSAIN IN ISLAMABAD

MIAN Nawaz Sharif was sworn in as Pakistan's prime minister yesterday, but only after Benazir Bhutto, the ousted former prime minister, repeated charges of vote-rigging and led a token opposition walkout of the National Assembly, objecting to the election of the new leader by a show of hands instead of a secret ballot.

President Ishaq Khan administered the oath of office. Miss Bhutto and her party deputies boycotted the oath-taking ceremony, in accordance with a decision by their parliamentary group, and in her first speech as leader of the opposition she

did not congratulate the prime minister.

The National Assembly earlier elected Mr Sharif, aged 40, leader by an overwhelming majority. Mr Sharif, leader of the right-wing Islamic Democratic Alliance and the former chief minister of Punjab, proved his majority in the assembly by getting the votes of 153 members, while Mohammad Afzal Khan, supported by Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, polled only 39 votes in the 217-seat assembly.

Mr Sharif, whose support in parliament varies from the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat Islami to the secular

Awami National Party, is likely to announce his cabinet in the next few days. A protégé of General Zia, the former military ruler, Mr Sharif seems to be in a good position to tackle crucial political and economic issues.

His nine-party alliance controls the government in all four provinces and his administration will have the support of the powerful military and civil establishment.

Rising oil prices, declining remittances from Pakistani workers in the Gulf, and the suspension of American economic and military aid have plunged Pakistan into one of its worst economic periods.



Lost leader: shocked supporters of Rabbi Meir Kahane comforting one another outside Bellevue Hospital in New York after he was shot dead while addressing a Zionist group at a hotel. The police are looking for a lone gunman who fired at the extremist Jewish leader twice from close range

Kahane leaves a legacy of hatred

By ROBERT FRIEDMAN

RABBI Meir Kahane's murder in a Manhattan hotel on Monday night marks the end of a career that rested on political turmoil, race hatred and violent confrontation.

"The worse it gets for Israel, the better it gets for me," he said in New York shortly after his election to the Knesset in 1984. He did everything he could to leave Israel an angrier, more polarised society.

Kahane was 15 years old when he was first arrested. In 1947 he led an attack with eggs and tomatoes on Ernest Bevin, then Britain's foreign secretary. The police chased him and his young accomplices and he was tackled from behind. A picture of the young Kahane locked in the grip of the officer's chokehold appeared in the *New York Daily News* the next day.

Kahane was arrested numerous times since in the United States and Israel, and for crimes far less prosaic. In 1985 the FBI publicly alleged, though never proved, that he had created an anti-Arab Jewish terrorist underground in America responsible for seven bombings, which resulted in two deaths. One of the victims was Alex Odeh, a prominent Palestinian American official and outspoken proponent of the PLO.

Kahane was best known for his call to expel Israel's Arabs — an idea nourished in Israel by the passions unleashed by the Intifada. After the Temple Mount tragedy last month, Kahane stepped up his anti-Arab rhetoric. Last week, in his weekly column in the *Jewish Press*, a Brooklyn-based Orthodox newspaper, he compared the Palestinians to the ancient Canaanites whose extermination, he declared, is mandated in the Bible.

While such manifestly racist views forced the Israeli High Court to uphold legislation banning Kahane from running for the Knesset in 1988 on the grounds that his party was racist and anti-democratic, it was not able to stop him from exacerbating tension between Jews and Arabs. Whenever a Jew was murdered in Israel by an Arab terrorist, Kahane could be found at the victim's funeral searching for recruits. Indeed, he rose to prom-

inence and a seat in the Knesset in 1984 by exploiting the basest fears of Jews in Israel and America. The Brooklyn-born rabbi was a genius at marketing religious and racial hatred.

In the weeks before the Israeli election of 1988, pollsters indicated that Kahane could win as many as six seats in the Knesset. Such a vote would have made his Kach party the third largest in parliament and would have enhanced enormously the political standing of its leader.

Some apologists for Israel say Kahane was a marginal figure, that his following was small and his impact limited. But Kahaneism — the hatred of Arabs, liberal Jews and Western culture — has had anything but a limited impact in Israel. Indeed, some of Kahane's ideas have taken root and become respectable.

Kach was a one-man show and will die with him. But his legacy of hatred and violence will trouble Israeli and American Jews for some time.

Robert L. Friedman is the author of *The False Prophet: Rabbi Meir Kahane from FBI Informant to Knesset Member*, published by Faber & Faber in the UK.

Revenge vow, page 1
Obituary, page 14

Husain predicts ecological disaster if oilfields burn

From MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN GENEVA

KING Husain of Jordan gave a warning of environmental catastrophe unparalleled since the accident at the Soviet nuclear power station at Chernobyl.

Addressing heads of government and environment ministers from nearly a hundred countries, gathered to discuss a world treaty to protect the atmosphere, the king turned the occasion into a platform to repeat his call for dialogue, not war. He also called for a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and suggested setting

up a Middle East "zone of peace", free from nuclear, biological, chemical and other weapons of mass destruction.

His audience listened with evident sympathy, with the pointed exception of the Israeli delegation, who seemed near to walking out during his reference to Israeli treatment of Palestinians in the occupied territories and refused to applaud at the end.

Earlier the king had had a 50-minute private meeting with Margaret Thatcher, who addressed the conference after him. Government sources said the talks were "sombre and low-key", with the king putting forward no new peace proposals but detailing Jordan's economic problems following the invasion of Kuwait. Jordan's gross national product was likely to drop by 55 per cent next year, the king said.

"He assured Mrs Thatcher he was still making efforts to secure the release of all hostages, while the prime minister reminded him of the European Community position on the discouragement of official or unofficial visits to Baghdad," the sources said.

Mrs Thatcher expressed her concern about the number of deportations going without mentioning by name either Edward Heath or Willy Brandt.

Shia militias sign pact for peace in Lebanon

From ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

IRANIAN and Syrian officials last night supervised the signing in Damascus by representatives of warring Shia Lebanese militias of a peace agreement ending their two-and-a-half-year struggle for supremacy over the country's strategic southern region.

It helped measures by the Lebanese government to extend its authority over Beirut and surrounding districts. But it was not yet clear whether it could yield the release of the foreign hostages held here by the Muslim fundamentalist

Hezbollah. Hassan Habibi, the Iranian vice-president, and Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister, joined Farouk Sharras, the Syrian foreign minister, in hosting a reconciliation meeting in Damascus between the Amal militia and Hezbollah.

Their struggle for control over Lebanon's powerful 1.5 million Shia community and the control of the Shia heartland in the south of the country so far has claimed 2,500 lives and displaced 100,000 people.

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On the slide in Europe

Martin Jacques

Every political crisis has its note of irony. This one is no exception. The Conservative party, traditionally the pro-European party, is profoundly split by its present anti-European stance. Labour, traditionally the home of anti-Europeanism, is reaping the benefits not only of the divisions in the Tory party but also its own new pro-European stance.

One of the minor political miracles of the past decade has been Labour's shift from a commitment to withdrawal from the EC, contained in its 1983 manifesto, to one of wholehearted support for Britain's membership. The key figure in this change has been Neil Kinnock, although by the time of his election as leader the old position had already been undermined, and was barely even argued for in the election campaign. The lack of popular support for withdrawal, the growing longevity of Britain's membership, and the increasing importance of economic ties with Europe, had all helped to destroy it. But the biggest single factor was probably the failure of the French socialist's dash for growth in the early Eighties, which dealt a body-blow to the whole idea of national roads to socialism.

Since Labour's policy-shift in 1984, there has been a sea-change in attitudes on the left. Europeanism has become the vogue. Brussels is now knee-deep with Labour councillors seeking EC money for their cities. Members of Labour's shadow cabinet fly south to the Continent as willingly as they used to travel north by rail. Labour MEPs are now the biggest single party group in the European parliament, and several of them are becoming leading players on the Strasbourg stage. Labour is experiencing nothing less than a cultural revolution in its relationship with Europe — rather belatedly, it must be said.

But Labour's new Europeanism is very muted in policy terms. It is defined by posture rather than substance. In no way can Labour be compared, for example, with the French socialists, who have been the architects of many of the EC reforms of the past decade. Labour's new tone is careful and cautious, a picture of moderation. And the dominant calculation, as in everything else, is electoral. Under no circumstances must Labour move too far away from Mrs Thatcher. Nothing must be said which could provide a hostage to fortune. The Tories must be offered no target to aim at. The tactic is simple: let the Tories stew in their own juice, and so far it is working perfectly. Thus on the exchange-rate mechanism Labour was always slightly ahead of the government, but never by much. It is now beginning to pull ahead on monetary union (EMU).

But electoral factors are not the only reason for Labour's caution

about Europe. As the present Tory crisis is forcibly reminding us, the fault-lines over Europe have always fallen within parties rather than between them. The present appearance of unity within the Labour party is partly a function of the discipline bred by the lure of victory and the bitter memory of the cost of past divisions. But it is also because of careful party management. The pro-European stance has always had and still has the potential to split the party. If Labour were now in office, it would certainly be experiencing some of the same problems that now afflict the Conservatives. Neil Kinnock, Tony Blair and Jack Straw might be enthusiastic integrationists, but the same cannot be said of Bryan Gould, David Blunkett and Gerald Kaufman.

There is also an intellectual problem. Beyond a point, Labour does not know what it thinks. It was one thing to recognise that withdrawal was both impossible and undesirable. It is another thing altogether to construct a strategy for Britain in the EC and for the EC itself. At present Labour's position is an uneasy halfway house. It has endorsed ERM but not EMU. It recognises that Keynesianism in one country is no longer feasible, but it is not prepared to come clean on the loss of sovereignty entailed and what that implies. A classic illustration was Labour's refusal to endorse the section of the European socialist manifesto in 1989 which called for greater powers for the European parliament.

At the moment, this lack of strategy is seen by Labour as the least of its problems. Everything is subordinated to winning the next election. The short term always prevails over the long term. Electoral considerations count for far more than political strategy. And Europe is no exception. At some point, of course, a price will be paid. Should the Labour party win the next election, it will have done precious little to prepare itself for the kind of problems it will face in Europe. Almost the first act of a Labour government could be to assume responsibility for the presidency of the Community. Other countries have shown its potential: but what would Labour do with it? Does it have any idea?

There are other potential advantages for Labour in adopting a more strategic pro-European stance. It might enable Labour to assume the mantle of Europe for a generation. Judging by the opinion polls, it would also serve to attract large numbers of young people and virtually the whole of the progressive middle class to its side. In my bones this is what I think Labour should do. But it will not. Above all, it is too worried about the electoral consequences of giving Mrs Thatcher the opportunity to play the patriotic card. It fears the "Up Yours, Delors" factor.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Last week, I wrote of my excitement at the discovery of the only known interview William Shakespeare gave to a magazine. As you will remember, the pen of Jemima Askin captured brilliantly the great man's poor table manners, love of asparagus and tendency towards gluttony, while affording the reader many a wispish insight into the pretensions of the Stratford Hostess in which the interview was conducted.

In the same mildewed cache, I discovered a variety of tapes of ancient radio programmes on which Shakespeare had appeared. It is often forgotten that Radio 4's *Start the Week* was first broadcast in 1962, among its first guests being William Shakespeare, asked on to plug his forthcoming play, *Hamlet*.

The transcript of the broadcast will prove fascinating to all scholars. The programme is hosted by Elinor Ragg (now immortalised in *The Elinor Ragg*, the famous jig performed by Cumbrians in the late 16th century as they set off from the Lake District to London in quest of their own arts chatshows). To keep the proceedings light, Shakespeare is slotted in between a woman who has just published a delightfully personal cookery book, an actress who has written a jocular volume of showbiz memoirs and a juggler. As always, Elinor Ragg's link between the cookery writer and Shakespeare is impeccable.

"So, from the making of omelettes, we move to the making of *Hamlet*. Correct me if I'm wrong, William, but I would imagine that making a play like *Hamlet* has quite a lot in common with making an omelette."

"Well, er—" says Shakespeare. "For instance," continues Elinor Ragg, "you can't make a play without first breaking eggs."

"Well, actually—" replies Shakespeare. "At this point, Ragg turns to another guest, a juggler, and says: 'Talking of breaking things, I'd like to draw into our discussion Jimmy the Juggler, who's hoping to take a break this winter from five years' hectic juggling. Welcome, Jimmy. Have you found the time to see *Hamlet* yet?'"

Jimmy the Juggler replies that, alas, he has not, to which Ragg retorts that he's not surprised because his producer tells him that it hasn't opened yet, and there is much laughter in the studio. There is then a short discussion on the differences between omelettes and juggling, and then Elinor Ragg makes every effort to draw Shakespeare into the lively conversation once more.

"Have you done much juggling in your life, Willy?" he says, to which Shakespeare replies that no, he has not. "Too busy writing all those marvelous plays. I doubt not!" replies Elinor, and again, studio laughter abounds.

"While we are on the subject of being busy, I'd like to welcome Jilly Jackson, the popular comedy actress, says Elinor. 'Sticking with William and his new play *Hamlet*, Jilly, your own new book is very, very short. Is it not?'"

Jilly then tells a couple of marvellously funny anecdotes before announcing that though she hasn't caught up with the Shakespeare play, she very much hopes to sometime in the new year. She is then cut off by Elinor. "As always," he says, "time's running out, but just before we go I'd like to ask each of you what you're doing at Christmas."

Sadly, Jimmy the Juggler's reply — visiting friends back home, organising a kiddie's party, various charity calls on local hospitals, rehearsals for a season in pantomime — though tremendously entertaining, bites into valuable time reserved for other guests. This allows only a few seconds for Katie the Cook ("A quiet time at home with family with perhaps a few friends dropping around for a drink on Christmas Eve") and a delicious anecdote from Jilly before Elinor is forced with regret to cut William Shakespeare off, though, happily, he himself manages to squeeze in the information that the Ragg family will, as usual, be caroling, walking the Pennines and distributing improving novels to the needy.

All in all, I would say that such glimpses into the mind of a great playwright are the sort of thing that Radio 4 does best.

Mary Midgley, an adviser to the Nottingham abuse enquiry, is convinced by the evidence

Everything points to satanism

Disputes about reported "satanic" child abuse in Nottingham are still raging. Today the city's social services committee will discuss the issue. The council has withdrawn earlier threats to discipline the social workers who accept the children's testimony, and David White, the director of social services, no longer supports the police view that the reports are all false. But the chief constable of Nottinghamshire is still determined to cast doubt on the story. To that end he is making statements to the press which appear under headlines such as "Satanic inquirers in the town hall".

This noisy dispute is a depressing substitute for real enquiry. Is this topic just a silly canard like the Bermuda Triangle? Or is it rather — like child abuse in general — something all too real, but disbelieved because it is so hard to face up to? As a consultant to the joint enquiry team on the Nottingham case, I found it strange that the issue should arouse such tribal conflict.

This case was not one in which the grounds for taking children away from their parents were doubtful. The children came into

care because the parents — eight of them — had already been jailed after pleading guilty to 53 charges of incest, cruelty and indecent assault against them. The question that then arose, and which is raising this storm, concerns the reports the children have given, and are still giving, of bizarre ritualistic abuse, apparently suggesting some kind of devil-worship.

So far, the press has mainly taken the stand that it is impossible for the stories to be true. So the only question to be asked is who has put them into the children's heads? It has been assumed that social workers have "brainwashed" the children, either because the social workers are fundamentalist evangelicals, or because their professional literature misled them. In principle, this is of course possible, but we are discussing a particular case. When I became involved, the first thing I tried to do was to determine the order of events. How had the stories first emerged?

The starting point was that several of the children told similar stories separately to their various foster parents. This happened spontaneously; no "disclosure

work" was involved. The children told these stories repeatedly and forcibly. They poured them out. The foster parents, never having heard anything of the sort before, did not know what to make of it, but they already had other worries. Though they were all experienced in fostering abused and neglected children, they found these children disturbed far beyond what they had seen before. They passed the problem on to the social workers, who had never come across anything of the kind either, and together they tried to make sense of it.

Were these, they wondered, symbolic fantasies, perhaps triggered by films and videos? At first this looks most plausible, but these films and videos are now so widespread, are seen by so many children, that they cannot be the explanation. Children, apart from the youngest, can distinguish such material from reality. It may upset them deeply, but they are usually able to distinguish it from what has actually happened to them. Yet these children insisted that they were describing what had occurred, describing not only visual aspects, but also how things felt and smelt. They named tun-

nels and other places to which they had been taken for rituals, and without consulting each other they separately led their carers to these sites.

The social workers passed all this information to the police. But the police attitude soon froze into a rejection of the whole story. For decades, it still rests on "no evidence", which means either that there is not enough for a murder trial or that there is nothing that does not come from the children. But according to current psychological research, children's evidence as such is no more likely to be false than that of adults. And in the original court case, evidence from these same children was readily accepted.

In this instance, then, the social workers and foster parents were eventually — though unwillingly — forced to believe the children. They have continued, against all belief and to ask for further investigation, especially investigation of adults outside the families — probably by paying to abuse the children. Are they merely being naïve? Is the whole thing indeed impossible?

I cannot see why it should be, glad though I would be to think so. Ritual practices, such as black masses, certainly do occur. So does vicious child abuse. Why would it be especially surprising if these two things were combined? Common elements actually make the combination quite likely. We tend perhaps to think of the occult, including black masses, as old-fashioned, or at least as a harmless hobby of the middle classes in the Home Counties. But we may be out of date. Today, such things are plainly a most profitable way of selling films and videotapes. From *The Exorcist* on, there has been an increasing exploitation of these themes in popular culture.

It is profoundly disturbing that such a mythology should survive and thrive where the rest of Christianity is forgotten, but unmistakably it does. When people welcome a mythology as strongly as this, and spread money on it, the attraction is not superficial; it enters deeply into their lives. Is there any reason for surprise if it sometimes spills over into reality? Mary Midgley is a philosopher and the author of *Wickedness* (Routledge).

Will Haughey pay the price for his tribal misdemeanor?



Conor Cruise O'Brien argues that whatever the result of today's presidential election, the prime minister has fatally cut himself off from his political grassroots

once universal and still powerful value system, common to clan and feudal society, and extending from the politics of great American cities to the bazzars of the Middle East.

In 1982, Mr Haughey was still in tune with this value system. He might, perhaps, have been certain rules of the wider society, but they were not Fianna Fail rules. He might have tapped certain telephones, but he was doing so in the legitimate exercise of his duties as leader. A leader must check on followers whose loyalty he suspects. Otherwise the party, or the tribe — and Fianna Fail can be seen in both those aspects — cannot survive.

So when, in 1983, members of the Fianna Fail parliamentary

party tried to depose Mr Haughey, he was able to rally the party's grassroots supporters round him to force the parliamentary party back into line. Mr Haughey can never expect any such rescue operation again.

In terms of Fianna Fail grassroots values, Mr Lenihan is now the hero, and Mr Haughey the villain. If Mr Lenihan committed any offence — if he rang President Hillery that night in 1982 and then denied he rang him — nobody doubts that both the action and the denial were done in the service of Fianna Fail. Therefore they were both meritorious actions, according to Fianna Fail values. In dismissing Mr Lenihan, for services to Fianna Fail, Mr Haughey has committed the very offence that his oppo-

nents were trying to commit in 1983. The grassroots are against him now, for exactly the same reasons as those for which they supported him, decisively, seven years ago.

In addition to all that, Mr Haughey's political stature has declined sharply since 1983. He lost caste, in Fianna Fail terms, after the last election, by becoming the first leader of Fianna Fail to accept coalition government. By doing so, he ceased to be the Boss. Last Wednesday night in the Dail, the Boss was Desmond O'Malley, leader of the Progressive Democrats, who forced Mr Haughey to dismiss Brian Lenihan.

The rift inside Fianna Fail has not been allowed to show — or not much — in the presidential cam-

paing. But another kind of rift is increasingly obvious: a rift between Fianna Fail and the more modern parts of the country. Mary Robinson has put together an impressive coalition that gives her a good chance of winning the presidency today. Most women are on her side; most young people, most urban people, most middle-class people, most east coasters. Fianna Fail, panicked at the strength of her showing, and at their own weird disarray, have mounted a smear campaign in the last week against this essentially liberal and highly respectable candidate, seeking to represent her as Red Mary.

Behind this strategy, if such it can be called, is the desire to get out against her that mainly rural and elderly vote which, in two referendums, maintained the prohibition of divorce in the constitution, and added to it a constitutional prohibition of abortion. Both those referendums were carried by two-thirds of those voting, on a very low poll. This is a still important but dwindling constituency, being eroded by death and emigration. Most people in that constituency will vote for Brian Lenihan anyway, if they vote at all. But it is unwise to appeal to them too loudly, thus infuriating Mary Robinson's constituency, whose votes will be needed in future general elections, the next of which may not now be long delayed. That is the kind of consideration that is normally not lost on the professionals in Fianna Fail. But this week Fianna Fail seemed to be losing its head.

Mary Robinson has coped with the sneers with cool efficiency. When a member of the Haughey cabinet this week charged her with neglecting her family, she pointed out that this was an insult not merely to her but to any married woman who does any work, or engages in "voluntary" activity, outside the home — a significant slice of the electorate.

The last pre-election polls put Lenihan and Robinson neck and neck at 43 per cent. I hope Mary Robinson wins. But even if she does not, her candidature has done a power of good. Fianna Fail will never be the same again.

Take us to our leader

In the hours before Mrs Thatcher's return to London from Geneva yesterday an old question resurfaced in Whitehall: "Who is running the country?" Until he resigned last week, Sir Geoffrey Howe was, as deputy prime minister, the official first reserve. But although John Major replaced him as leader of the House, Mrs Thatcher has so far failed to appoint a deputy. Without that position, the role of leader of the House sinks to eleventh position in the pecking order, between the education and Scottish secretaries.

Some thought Douglas Hurd, as foreign secretary the most senior minister, would be the stand-in. But an FO spokesman declined to speculate. "That's not a question for us, that's for Downing Street," he said. A spokeswoman there said: "The prime minister runs the country from wherever she is in the world." And if she fell under a Swiss bus? "It would have been the most appropriate person."

Lord Whitelaw, a former deputy prime minister, agrees that when Mrs Thatcher is overseas modern communications allow her to remain in complete control, but that otherwise the mantle would fall on Hurd. "When I was her deputy and she was abroad there were occasions when I was technically in charge, but I never had to hold a cabinet meeting. I assume Douglas Hurd would be in charge in her absence."

Lord Blake, the author of numerous books on the history of the Tory party, believes Mrs

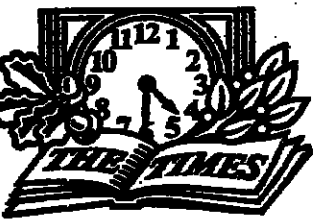
Thatcher would have to nominate a deputy to chair the cabinet. "Had Geoffrey Howe not resigned, no matter how fed up the prime minister may have been with him, he would have been expected to stand in. Now there is no deputy prime minister, so it would be for her to decide who holds the reins in her absence."

At least Charles Powell, the prime minister's private secretary, cannot be accused of running the country this time, as he was when Mrs Thatcher was holidaying in Cornwall early in the Gulf crisis. He has been with Mrs Thatcher at the climate conference in Geneva.

Michael Heseltine has shown some political magnanimity in his Middle East tour, where he might have been thought to be stealing a march in the Tory leadership stakes on Douglas Hurd, whose recent trip ended in such disarray. Hurd was snubbed by, among others, Faisal Husseini, the best-known Palestinian leader in the occupied territories, who refused to meet him. Heseltine was granted a meeting with Husseini, and after braving a gauntlet of petrol bombers protesting about the killing in New York of Rabbi Meir Kahane, rounded on him at his house on the Mount of Olives. "You made a grave mistake not meeting Douglas Hurd," he told him. "A more sympathetic and reasonable man you could not find." Would he say the same if he were facing Hurd in a leadership contest?

Gazza's glory

Paul Gascoigne's meteoric rise from the playing fields of the World Cup may be about to put him in orbit in high society. Just a week after he put his



DIARY

arm around Mrs Thatcher in the hall of Downing Street, Gazza has been named as one of the new entrants in a Debutant work of reference.

The publishers of the long-established guide to the aristocracy hope to include the footballer



in their forthcoming *Debutant's People of Today*. His name will appear alongside such luminaries from the world of commerce as Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, and the scientist Stephen Hawking. "It will include sportsmen to try

to make it a more balanced book," says a spokesman, but there is a drawback to Gazza's entry. "We are still waiting to hear from Mr Gascoigne. He hasn't replied yet."

Fluttering bravely

Before polling booths opened for Ireland's presidential election this morning, the country's gamblers had already decided that Brian Lenihan was going to win. Bookmakers took an estimated £1 million in bets — more than the gambling-mad Irish spend on the Irish Grand National. Most of the money is on Lenihan, who only last week was considered a no-hoper after his sacking.

"Since then there has been a wave of sympathy for him," says Dublin bookmaker Alan Tuthill, who just six days ago was quoting Lenihan at odds of 6:1. "He's now favourite at 4:6 and we have had punters taking out second mortgages to back him." Fifty-thousand outsider Austin Currie, virtually ignored by punters, who astounded voters by admitting that he would not be voting for himself. He had somehow neglected to register.

Steps retraced

After decades of speculation about the inspiration for the title of John Buchan's classic thriller, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, the author's son, William, has provided the definitive version. William, now aged 74, who has just written his memoirs *The Ragged Time: A Fragment of Autobiography*, says: "It's been the subject of great debate, but it came while my father was convalescing at a private nursing home in

Broadstairs. There was a wooden staircase leading down to the beach. My sister, who was about six, and who had just learnt to count properly, went down them and gleefully announced: there are 39 steps." When the house was pulled down some years later, the builders thoughtfully cut out a section of the stairs, attached a brass plaque, and sent the lot to the author.

Pilgrim jitters

Pilgrims to the Holy Land are having to regain something of the spirit of adventure that inspired their 12th-century forebears, as specialised tour operators shut up shop because of the stand-off in the Gulf. Lionheart Tours, once specialists in book-ings to the Holy Land, ceased trading last month, citing Saddam as the cause, and Interchurch Travel has now cancelled all its pilgrimages for the rest of the year. One beacon of hope still shining is Sharon Tours. "Some groups have postponed, but we are taking a group of 20 North of England priests to Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee this month," says Philip Dean from the company. But despite reassurances, three of the 20 have decided to stay at home.

Beaujolais Nouveau aficionados preparing to over-indulge when this year's vintage is released next week might raise their glasses in sympathetic toast to the Japanese. The much-hyped wine is a cult drink in Japan, with sales doubling every year. But this year's supply will be at least a week late because of security surrounding the coronation of the new emperor. To add insult to injury, the price has risen by about 30 per cent. It will cost £15 a bottle.



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TIME FOR A CUT

Britain is clearly going into recession. The economy needs lower interest rates and needs them now. This was the message yesterday from the Confederation of British Industry. The CBI may have been engaged in special pleading, but its plea deserves to be endorsed.

A gradual reduction in interest rates need no longer be postponed for fear of stimulating excess demand. On the contrary, the effect on pay bargainers would be beneficial. Britain's present inflation was initially provoked by pressure on the demand side, due largely to Nigel Lawson's credit boom. But this demand has now evaporated and prices are being driven upwards by workers' attempts to protect their living standards from unexpectedly high mortgage rates and poll taxes. This cost-push pressure would be moderated, not worsened, by further carefully calibrated interest rate cuts. Only as interest rates fall will there be any chance of convincing the public that the embarrassment of double-digit inflation was indeed a temporary blip, as the Treasury has always claimed.

Still less should a cut in rates be delayed because of an exaggerated concern about the pound's recent weakness on the foreign exchanges. It would be the ultimate irony of the recent EMU saga if Britain were now to sink into deeper recession because of the two events which undermined the pound last week: the prime minister's strident insistence on monetary sovereignty and the Bundesbank's decision to raise German rates. The German decision was motivated entirely by German domestic politics and paid little heed to the requirements of other European countries, as the Bundesbank's own officials are the first to admit. Both Europhobes and Europhiles in Britain could learn something from this.

The German attitude to monetary union is exemplary because it represents a firm but polite assertion of national self-interest. In this respect it is as different from the comic opera idealism of the French and Italians as it is from

the Francophobic ravings of *Sun* leader writers. The Bundesbank pursues whatever monetary policy it deems appropriate to regulate the German economy. If other countries wish to attach themselves to German policy, they are welcome to do so. They can expect no more influence over Germany's interest rate decisions than Britain enjoyed over American economic policy in the 1950s, the heyday of the Bretton Woods system.

In the long run, Britain's interest probably does lie in following German monetary policy, given the growing integration of Europe and Whitehall's abysmal record of macro-economic management under governments of both parties. But this need not mean crucifying British industry with high interest rates in order to defend a level of sterling which the financial markets appear to regard as unsustainable in the long term. Last month was a difficult and dangerous time for Britain to join the ERM. It was a time when sterling stood artificially high in the exchanges, boosted by the government as an emergency measure against inflation; a time when Britain's economic outlook seemed finely balanced between recession and further overheating; and a time of exceptional turbulence in currencies round the world.

Given sterling's unpropitious ERM entry, the Treasury was right not to panic last month as the pound slid from the top to the bottom of the currency snake. In the months ahead it should not be afraid of cutting interest rates as and when required to stabilise domestic economic conditions. If it was right to enter the ERM last month, then membership of the system should now make it easier for Britain to follow a sensible domestic monetary policy, without worrying about speculative attacks on sterling. If, on the other hand, the pound was taken into the ERM at the wrong time or the wrong exchange rate, the sooner the mistake is recognised the less harm will be done.

FOG OVER THE CHANNEL

What happened yesterday in Brussels was central to the debate over wider European unity. It was the crude reality of European collaboration, a hassle over what used to be regarded by "pro-Europeans" as the pre-eminent example of collective decision-making in action, the common agricultural policy. Whatever else might divide its members, it was said, the CAP held the EC together and laid the basis for further progress towards the EC's supranational ideal.

Yesterday's farm price negotiations prior to the ending of the Gatt round is, for the time being, the most practical test of the commitment of member states to the unity proclaimed last month in Rome. France and Germany, the two countries clamouring loudest for early political and monetary union, utterly failed that test. Britain alone passed, and is thus declared once again "isolated". The additional cost to a European family of four of producing, storing and eating EC agricultural produce and dumping the surpluses on foreign markets is now £900 a year. This cost is indefensible. Reform has been forced on the EC from outside. The success of the Gatt's Uruguay Round of negotiations to liberalise international trade, begun in 1986 and due to end next month, hinges on agreement to reduce distortions in agricultural trade.

The stakes for every member of the EC could not be higher. But in seven meetings of the EC's farm and trade ministers over the past few weeks, France and Germany have used every ounce of their combined weight to seek unilateral advantage for their farm lobbies, in the full knowledge that a breakdown of the Gatt talks would risk a global trade war. The negotiations have been stalled since October 15 because, of the 105 governments involved, only the EC twelve have been unable to come up with an offer on agricultural trade. Never was cartelised protectionism more naked.

It is vital to any debate on greater European co-operation to understand what has happened here. Members of the EC have entrusted the

Commission with all international trade negotiations, an important instance of pooled sovereignty. The Commission cannot act without a mandate. Its original proposals fell short of the subsidy cuts demanded by the world's agricultural free traders. The commission watered them down further to buy off first the Germans, then the French. Yesterday's haggling elicited yet more promises of compensating payments to farmers to produce agreement, reducing the Commission's leeway at Gatt to such a point that there is now a risk that the Round will collapse.

Had Britain been responsible for this nonsense, European federalists at home and abroad would have condemned Mrs Thatcher's lack of *communitaire* spirit in resounding terms and pressed for a vote. Not so with France and Germany. Other EC governments, no less nationalistic when push really comes to shove, are happy enough to shelter in the Franco-German shadow. Even the Dutch and Danes have been cowed into silence by Franco-German diplomacy.

On this precedent, it is hypocrisy to criticise Britain's demand, in Rome and since, that designs for monetary union or a common foreign and security policy be thoroughly spelt out before enactment. The argument for shared sovereignty is that it strengthens all concerned. Distortions in agricultural trade cushion farmers at the expense of the overall prosperity of the Community, the future of international trade and the capacity of the EC to welcome in Eastern European countries.

Under free market conditions, East Europe's farmers could produce more cheaply than those in the West. Artificially raising their prices to anything approaching current CAP rates would break the EC bank. French demands for the maintenance of "Community preference" to keep out cheaper imports are merely demands for a protectionist Fortress Europe. Britain is right to denounce the fog over the Channel and to proclaim that Europe is isolated from the world and from reality.

BACK TO BACK YARDS

"All nimbly were the borough groves," Lewis Carroll might have written of the great planning debate now under way. Like the closely-related "yuppie", "nimby" (not in my back yard) is one of those tiresome acronyms which sneaked into the vocabulary of public life during the 1980s. Yesterday the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), lent its authority to this disagreeable neologism by holding a conference on the subject. Even Nicholas Ridley, a vigorous exponent of the English vernacular, has been known to use the N-word — though not, so far, of himself.

The word is a useful description of one manifestation of human nature: the territorial imperative. The rise of home ownership and the ferocious defence of local neighbourhoods against developers is one side of the territorial coin. The other side is more diffused: largely disinterested but often no less passionate opposition to urban and suburban encroachment, even in parts of the country far from one's own back yard. Neither impulse is discreditable, nor undemocratic nor incompatible with a generalised belief in market forces.

No less fundamental to a free society than property is mobility. Proximity to London and to the Continent has turned the south-east of England into a magnet for the ambitious. The planning system can no longer deal competently with the demand for residential and commercial development. Where the planners have capitulated to the developers, perhaps for fear of losing after a costly planning appeal, local communities have expressed their outrage to local councillors and MPs. Where the planning system does not protect back gardens, then the democratic system must do so.

Bright ideas on how to adjudicate on these fierce conflicts of interest are plentiful. Richard Ehrman's recent CPS pamphlet argues that, since residents' objections to new building are

often justified by the ugly results, planners should be entitled to demand "good" designs from developers. Mr Ehrman also thinks that those adversely affected by planning decisions should be compensated out of the developers' profits. Others, like Mr Ridley, dismiss such ideas as unwarrantable. What do officials understand of aesthetics, he asked yesterday, and how can a price be placed on a view? Nothing simpler, an hotelier might reply.

More modestly, today's Queen's Speech is expected to announce that those whose homes fall victim to compulsory purchase will be paid 10 per cent above the market price. That is a concession by central government to local sentiment. But, as Adam Smith knew, the free market needs a political framework to police it. Planners are the policemen of the housing market, and the environment department should set an example, but only rarely set it.

The present planning system, with its confusion of direction and its proliferation of appeals, is not seen as just or efficient. The new planning bill is expected to concede that further centralisation is not the answer. County councils, with important policing functions over district planning authorities, will be able to proceed with structure plans without gaining approval from the environment secretary. Thereafter discretion should be exercised by locally accountable officials within a national planning consensus.

This consensus, fiercely pro-development under Mr Ridley, has yet to receive new orders from his successor, Chris Patten. As in most of local government, the key lies in delegation to subsidiary democratic tiers. Once local communities are treated by Whitehall as responsible, they are more likely to act responsibly, and the N-word can be relegated to the nursery.

Means to further the federal interests of Europe

From Sir Peter Smithers

Sir, Now is the time when, instead of concentrating western Europe in German hands and newly-liberated East, we should be developing intergovernmental institutions of broader geographical range. There is no chance that the mechanism of the Community, designed to protect the interests of a small group of advanced industrial states, could serve this purpose. Moreover the Community has a bad record of working with other international institutions. As secretary-general of the Council of Europe between 1964 and 1969, in spite of my best efforts, I found co-operation with Brussels impossible. EFTA found the same.

GATT finds the same today. After the war the West desired a wider Europe integrated into a new and better world system. The structures to bring this about were set up but in the conditions of the cold war were never used effectively. They are still there. The Council of Europe is an inter-governmental negotiating mechanism to which a parliamentary assembly is attached, which could embrace all of western Europe, the Baltic states and perhaps one day a Russian or a Ukrainian state. It is the ideal inter-governmental negotiating body, never yet given a chance to operate.

The worldwide GATT, which is at present being sabotaged from Brussels in the interests of small numbers of French and German farmers, could be used instead to expand trade within Europe and the rest of the world. With the end of the cold war the United Nations has at last become the indispensable world-wide organization which its founders intended. It offers very great possibilities. Its regional organizations in Europe, no longer paralysed by the cold war, could become effective instruments of co-operation.

Most of the mechanisms appropriate to the new conditions of today are already in existence. We should break out of the mental prison which engulfed us during the cold war and build upon those institutions which are appropriate to today and tomorrow, preserving from the period of the cold war those achievements of the Community which are still relevant.

At every stage since 1949 Britain has arrived at what would have been the right decisions on Europe, severe as they were, at a time when they were no longer so. Critics of the prime minister's European policy seek to repeat this disastrous process. They should think again.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PETER SMITHERS,
6921 Vico Morcote,
Switzerland.

From the Director of the Institute for European Defence & Strategic Studies

Sir, Given the present controversy over the prime minister's style in dealing with European issues, it may be pertinent to repeat some of the findings of a recent critique of British foreign policy, *Who Only England Knows: Conservatives and Foreign Policy* by Dr Christopher Coker, published by this institute. Although critical of the prime minister's abrasive manner, the study concludes that the real weakness on European and foreign policy issues is not her excessive influence but the government's failure to provide a policy as radical as those on domestic issues. Thus, far from having "Thatcherised" foreign policy, the government has significantly failed to do this.

The author's judgment on the alternative approach offered by Mr Heseltine may also be of interest: Heseltine's political philosophy can at best define questions. It cannot provide answers. . . . Not for Heseltine calm, detached, philosophical discussion. His political philosophy is the disputation of the public figure constantly engaged in controversies of the moment, uninterested in establishing general conclusions or general truths. Occasionally he may find it useful to buttress his policy recommendation with the generalisations extracted from experience. Unfortunately the policy recommendations do not always follow from the experience he has had.

Above all Heseltine offers no challenge to Thatcher for those who know him.

Yours faithfully,

GERALD FRIST, Director,
Institute for European Defence & Strategic Studies,
13/14 Golden Square, W1,
November 6.

From Viscount De La Tude, VC

Sir, Clamorous abuse of the prime minister is not, as some would like to persuade us, a substitute for the most serious and deliberate consideration about the future of Britain in Europe.

The issue whether or not to submerge our country's institutions in a new kind of European imperialism is not a question to be postponed. It is with us now, as the Euro-fanatics well know.

But they hope that by turning up the volume of the anti-Thatcher record player the public will not notice when we have passed the point of no return.

And what will be the form of this super-state which is to be brought into being? How will the conciliating and bureaucratic appointees in Brussels, overseen from Bonn or Berlin and controlling credit, devising foreign and commercial policies, preserving

internal security, dealing with crime, supplying and ordering armed forces, waging war and making peace — how will they command the respect and loyalty of 12 divergent constituent nations in a polyglot polity extending non-continuously from the Shetland Islands to the Aegean Sea?

The concern of nations in Nato which spans the Atlantic will dissolve. What will fill the power vacuum which must ensue? The answer will be — other better organised and equipped nuclear nations or empires.

What a fragile prospect for Britain and for Europe.

Yours faithfully,
DE LA TUDÉ,
Penshurst Place,
Tonbridge, Kent,
November 2.

From Mr T. H. Richardson

Sir, One thing is certain. An attempt to create a United States of Europe would be a fatal mistake. A national group of people requires a government which is reasonably efficient and reasonably democratic. A European federation might enjoy the former. But in practice democracy can only operate when there are cultural and historical links that bind people to a common way of life.

Unity of language also helps. The countries of the EC do not enjoy that unity or anything like it. Democracy would be a farce. Members of the most powerful group would operate the federation for the benefit of their group and not for the benefit of the Federal States of Europe.

Edward Heath has asked the rhetorical question — "Does California feel dominated by New York?" or words to that effect. But all the American states are basically Anglo-Saxon, with Anglo-Saxon roots. The question he should pose is — "Do the Lithuanians and the Georgians feel dominated by Russia?" — and even "do some Scots feel dominated by the English and does Quebec feel dominated by English-speaking Canada?"

Of course Germany would dominate the federation and the disintegration would be even more profound if and when the Community included the east European states. But the immediate question is the common currency. Thatcher fears this would be federation "by the back door" and I fear she is right.

Yours faithfully,
T. H. RICHARDSON,
Doberman, Richardson,
Broady & Horsman,
College Chambers,
92/94 Borough Road,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland,
November 5.

fatal financial penalties under Labour.

What would be the result from Mr Straw's proposals? Public opinion, steadfastly in favour of variety and choice, would be flouted and 27 local authorities in England would lose the remaining element of selective education. Instead, we would have a second-phase organized along comprehensive lines, and run by local education authorities. So much for consumer choice.

Further, Mr Straw is strangely silent on the financial implications of his proposals, and as for changes to the work and role of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Schools, perhaps he could give credit for starting that debate to the author of this letter.

Yours faithfully,
BOB DUNN,
House of Commons.

parents and the elderly would be less likely to benefit from day surgery. We wonder who would be responsible for their after care — would it be GPs with their already drastically increased workload?

Is the single-parent mother really expected to return immediately to the demanding care of her young family after the emotional trauma of having a lump removed from her breast or the termination of a pregnancy? Or indeed the single-parent father return to his family after having a circumcision? Or is the Government about to announce that adequate community care will be provided for the more vulnerable members of society who have day surgery?

Yours sincerely,
JANE LEE (Coordinator),
Hospital Alert,
51 Grove Road,
Hounslow, Middlesex,
October 27.

From Mr J. D. Rimington
Sir, Mr David Thomas (October 26) is correct in pointing out that in the last two years pay in central government has risen somewhat faster than in local government and the private sector, on average. Some catching up was no doubt due.

What he does not point out, however, is that for non-manual workers, local government average earnings are 12.6 per cent higher than central government, and in the private sector annual earnings for non-manual workers are 18.2 per cent higher than central government. The same figures for manual workers are respectively 7.5 per cent higher and 26.6 per cent higher.

Percentage increases year on year mean little: it is the base from which they start that is important.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN RIMINGTON,
9 Highbury Hill, N5.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Time to accept Twyford Down?

From Councillor J. L. Nunn

Sir, Your leader on November 3 regarding Twyford Down and the M3 extension concludes that if the prime minister cannot bang together the heads of the department involved the least she can do is to shelve the whole project until prosperity returns. After more than 20 years of dispute this means yet more delay and is quite intolerable.

As soon as the appeal option has been resolved after the High Court action, construction of this section of the M3 must go ahead and by the quickest method — the route through Twyford Down.

My friends Barbara Bryant and David Crocker are putting up a brave fight, but they should realise that most political decisions result from a compromise. The national economy generally and particularly the economy of the down-stream ports of Portsmouth, Southampton and Poole has to be taken into account by the departments concerned.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. NUNN,
Viv Tree Cottage,
East Street,
Hambleton,
Waterlooville, Hampshire.

From Mrs Valerie Upton

Sir, Presumably the two public enquiries into the M3 extension, conducted by men whose competence has not been questioned, have already made the "environmental impact assessment" required by the EC directive, referred to in your leading article, otherwise what was their purpose? The conclusion of both enquiries was the same; namely that the M3 route should go through the edge of Twyford Down.

Despite these decisions, and having had the opportunity to put their case at the enquiries, the voices of protest continue. It is quite extraordinary how the importance of Twyford Down is being exaggerated.

Equally important is the valley of the Itchen which is already so adversely affected by road-building. With the M3 route taken out of sight into the cutting, the water meadows which are now so spoiled by the traffic will be restored, and they and Winchester will no longer be separated from St Catherine's Hill. For from damaging the amenities, the possibility of walking there from the city, unhindered by the notorious 1930s bypass, will be regained after so many years.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE UPTON,
3 Back Street,
St Cross,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Cycling clothes

From Mr Barry Mason

Sir, I have been cycling to work in all weathers to central London white-collar jobs for 12 years and can perhaps help Paul Mitchell (October 30) solve his clothing problems.

Cycling and suits do not mix and total separation of those sets of clothing is really the only answer. I keep all my suits and uniform black shoes in a steel clothes locker at work and each day's clean shirt, socks, etc., travel in a pannier with me on the morning half of the 25-mile, 18 mph round trip. An employer who supports such quick changes plus a visiting dry-cleaner is invaluable.

Yours sincerely,
BARRY MASON,
16 Palewell Park, SW14.

From Mr Peter Walsh

Sir, Mr Mitchell should make friends with a retired ICI man who has not handed in his overall suit.

It is a marvelous garment, giving ample protection to city clothes, with enough pockets to house lunch and *The Times*; and he should not need bicycle clips.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WALSH,
18 Tuson Drive,
Widnes, Cheshire.

From Major O. Crocombe

Sir, I believe it was Mr Nellist who provided the answer in Parliament the other day when he recommended a tandem pedalled by a member of the working class.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER CROCOMBE,
Castle House,
Emmure,
Bridgewater, Somerset.

From Mr R. S. Byram

Sir, When I decide to cycle, I instruct my chauffeur to carry suitable clothing in the Merc. Doesn't everyone?

Yours faithfully,
R. S. BYRAM,
87 Coniston Avenue,
Dalton,
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

Over-cooked?

From Ms Jane Macgillivray and Mr Graham Routley

Sir, Presumably no French reader will bother to correct your interpretation of "Roastbeefs" as being consumers of over-cooked meat in "Tolerant Fingers laugh with the Roastbeefs" (report, November 5). The epithet derives from the Brits' predisposition to turning the colour of under-cooked French *coq au vin* on the beaches of southern France (and in the last few days in embarrassment from *The Sun*).

Yours sincerely,
JANE MACGILLIVRAY,
GRAHAM ROUTLEY,
17 Rue de Tourville,
78100 Saint Germain en Laye,
France,
November 5.

MEDIA

Fairies back in flower

SAY "Flower Fairy" to many of the grandmothers, mothers and, for all I know, adolescent girls of today, and you will get an instant recollection of silk and chiffon, of being dressed up as Apple Blossom or Fuchsia for tableaux and pageants, and of having to recite such things as: "Fuchsia is a dancer/Dancing on her toes..."

The person responsible for these embarrassments was Cicely Mary Barker, a quiet, spinster lady from Croydon, near London, who, between 1923 and 1948, devised her series of Flower Fairy books. Her publisher was the populist firm of Blackie and Son, noted in the Twenties for its annuals, which were also illustrated by Barker. It presented her books in a rather diluted art nouveau style, and preserved them in print through all the changing post-war fashions.

A year or two ago, however, Blackie heard of Frederick Warne's success with the marketing of Beatrix Potter, and entered into negotiations over a transfer of titles. With the agreement of Barker's heirs and legal assignees (including the Church of St Andrew's, in Croydon), the Flower Fairy books were sold to Warne.

Warne seeks to revive in an authentic manner. As with the Potter material, it found that much of Barker's original artwork for the books had survived. This made possible a fairly complete re-origination of the books from the artist's water-colours and, thanks to the precision of current colour-scanning processes, the opportunity to bring back the series as crisp and fresh as *Aquilegia vulgaris*.

Barker made no concessions to her printers in her botanical painting, and she has been well served by her new publishers and by William Clowes's printing house at Beccles, in Suffolk.

Warne is also planning an appropriate sequence of supplementary publications, very much on the lines of the Potter merchandise: nursery frites, gift books, diaries and the like. It has brought in the firm of Copyrights Limited to plan expansion into other areas of marketing. The Flower Fairies are halfway to being pure design anyway, so turning them into wallpaper or tapestry (the first two projects under consideration) merely follows a natural direction.

BRIAN ALDERSON

Merger clouds Channel 5 sky

The Sky-BSB link could ground the fifth terrestrial channel, writes

Melinda Wittstock

The merger of Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting raises a big question over the future prospects, if there are any, for Channel 5, the new national terrestrial channel due to be launched in 1994. "The Sky-BSB merger must effectively bury Channel 5's prospects," says Chris Akers, a broadcasting analyst with Citicorp Investment Bank.

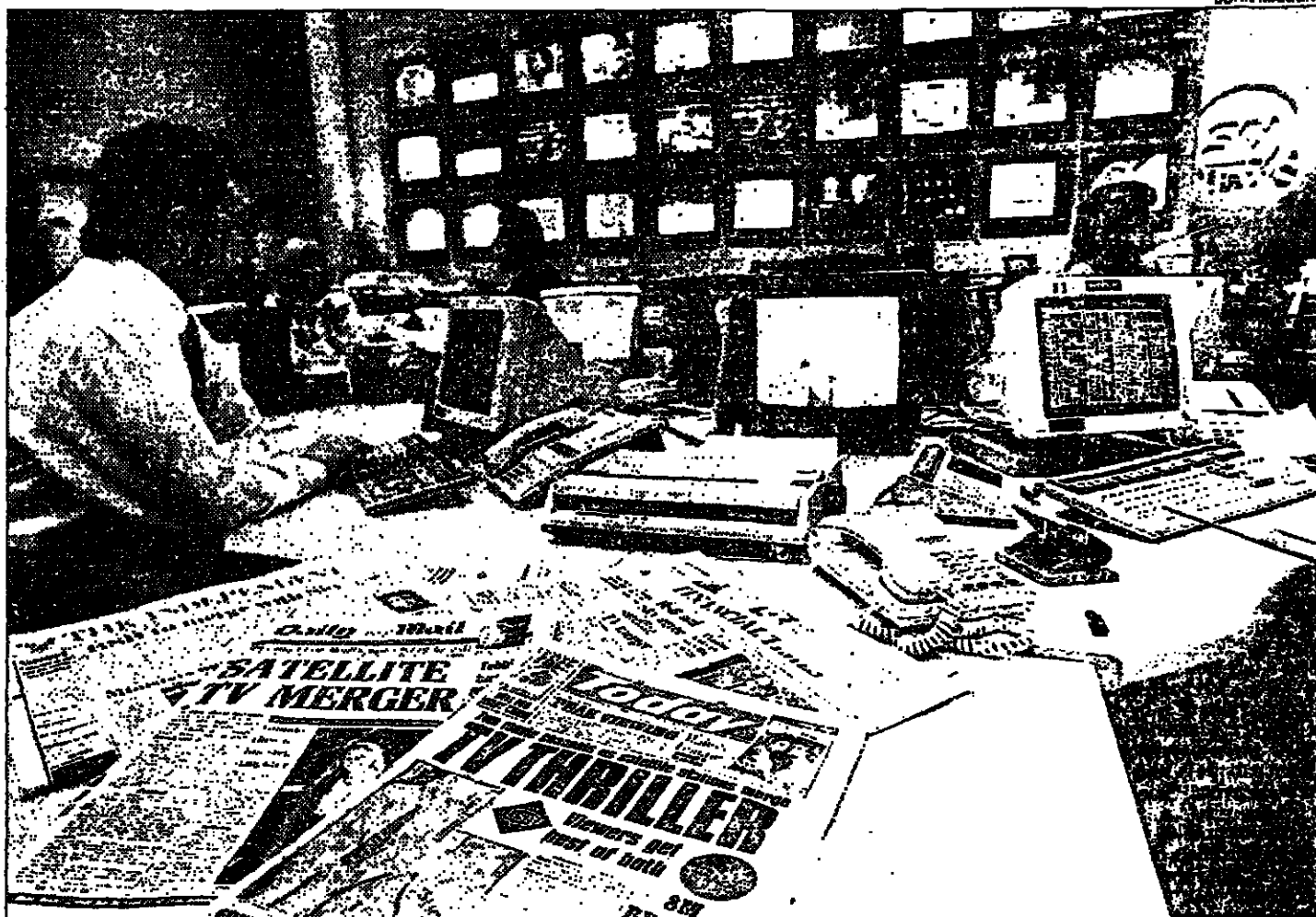
By the time Channel 5 gets on the air, at an estimated start-up cost of £700 million, it will have to compete with 48 Astra channels reaching, according to industry analysts, 50 per cent of the UK population. Only 60 to 70 per cent of the population will be able to receive the national Channel 5 through its network of 25 transmitters.

"Only a fool will want to bid for a channel likely to bring in just £105 million a year in advertising revenue when running costs will be about £200 million," Mr Akers said. "And why spend £700 million on a national channel when it costs just £5 million a year to run an Astra transponder? Most of the homes in the Channel 5 areas will be connected to cable by then anyway."

The owners of Channel 5 will have the added problem of picking up the tab for returning VCRs in about 15 million homes which will suffer from interference. A tricky marketing problem will also arise: those who buy the required Channel 5 aerials will have to pay for the returning themselves.

The shadow Independent Television Commission (ITC), which is this week looking through 20 proposals from consortia interested in bidding for Channel 5, including Jonathan Ross's Channel X, is now likely to come under increased pressure to change Channel 5's remit from a national to a localised network with city "opt-outs".

Such a change would delay the launch by up to two years, as the approval of the international broadcasting authorities is required to build the necessary 60 to 75 transmitters. But the ITC said it must decide by January in order to give those putting together bids for Channel 5 licences some indication as to the nature of the competition they will face from



Making the headlines: the news room at Sky this week, after the announcement of the merger with BSB to form British Sky Broadcasting

Channel 5. "It might be more convenient for the ITC engineers to launch Channel 5 as a national channel, but there will be no demand for it," says John Peris, head of media at Saatchi & Saatchi. "They should start thinking more in commercial terms: if there's a gap in the market, it should be filled. A localised Channel 5 is the way to do it."

Meanwhile the Sky-BSB merger into British Sky Broadcasting looks like producing the first serious potential competition for terrestrial broadcasters.

The ITV companies, in the middle of preparing their bids for the new Channel 3 franchises, had not regarded the two satellite companies as a threat since their joint losses of £10 million a week were a disincentive to originating challenging drama and current affairs programming. Millions of pounds will now be saved on competing marketing campaigns, competing movie and sports channels, and two large and expensive buildings. Advertising agencies predict that the new company will acquire 34 per cent of ITV and

Channel 4's advertising and sponsorship revenue by the year 2000.

While ITV companies, in the words of Richard Dunn, Thames Television's chief executive, "go back to the drawing board" to revise their estimates of projected advertising revenue, the BBC will have to face the challenge of maintaining a broad range of programming and a large audience share as a justification for the licence fee. At the time the royal charter comes up for renewal in 1996 its viewing share is likely to have been substantially eroded.

The merger is also a blow to the nascent cable television industry, whose strongest selling point was that viewers previously had to buy two satellite dishes to obtain access to Sky and BSB, and two more if they wanted CNN and Superchannel, as opposed to a single cable. And of course the merger means cable operators will have four fewer channels to offer.

"Cable has lost a powerful argument, but at least there is greater confidence in the survival of the new five channels than there

was for the nine," says Jon Davey, director of the Cable Authority. "It will still be cheaper for consumers to receive the satellite channels on cable than via satellite dishes, though not as cheap as before."

But the shot in the arm for Astra administered by the newly merged group, the Luxembourg-based satellite used by Sky, could also dent cable's fortunes. Jonathan Hart, Astra's UK managing director, says that on Monday the 16-channel Astra received half a dozen calls from broadcasters eager to use transponders on a second Astra satellite to be launched in February.

There is speculation that Superchannel, on Eutelsat, and CNN, Discovery and Children's Channel, on Intelsat, will now switch to the 32-channel Astra, which by 1993 will have 48 channels. Disney and Time Warner's Home Box Office may also join Astra. Anyone with a Sky dish will be able to receive much of what is offered on cable

channels. Cable will still be attractive to many consumers, since the telephone duopoly review is likely to allow operators to offer telephone and television down the same cable lines.

Viewers will be able to take advantage of a whole range of interactive services, as divergent as home shopping and two-way educational instruction.

The ITV companies, the BBC and Channel 4 will watch with interest how British Sky Broadcasting formulates programme schedules and content on its two movie channels, as well as its light entertainment, news and sports channels. The common wisdom is that the new group, likely to be profitable within 18 months, will not be a serious threat until it starts investing in original, not just bought in, programmes.

"Times will be tough, no doubt," a BBC spokesman said. "But the BBC has a good case for justifying its licence fee on the basis of its distinctiveness in offering documentaries, arts and quality drama at peak time."

MEDIA WATCH

Continental drift

THE *Independent*, which in August thwarted the *Chicago Tribune's* plans to take a 30 per cent stake, is understood to be negotiating the sale of up to 30 per cent of its shares to two continental newspaper publishers. This would avoid violating its articles of association, which prevent shareholders from owning more than 15 per cent. The prospective buyers are Mondadori, the Italian publishing giant which owns *La Repubblica*, and the publishers of *El Pais*, Spain's biggest newspaper. The move would provide a cash injection for the *Independent*, which has raised its price to 40p, cut pagination by 5 per cent and announced 10 per cent voluntary redundancies to cope with the advertising recession. Andreas Whitlam Smith, the editor, refused to comment on the negotiations.

Turning off

MEN are seven times more likely to reach top management jobs in broadcasting, a survey of 92 broadcasting organisations throughout the European Community has found. Women make up 36.2 per cent of the entire EC radio and television workforce, but only 0.1 per cent hold top jobs, according to the survey, which was carried out by the EC steering committee for equal opportunities in broadcasting. Women hold only 1 per cent of top technical jobs, 2 per cent of top administrative jobs and 10 per cent of top programme-making jobs. In all the leading EC broadcasting companies, there is only one female director-general.

In the money

ITN looks set to secure the £18 million medium-term loans and leasing finance it asked its bankers for a month ago, after the shadow Independent Television Commission (ITC) agreed to nominate it as the sole news provider to ITV's Channel 3 until 2003. Bankers had been reluctant to commit funds until ITN's long-term business future was assured. The banks are still waiting for guarantees from several ITV companies, but ITN expects to receive the loans in a matter of weeks. ITN has been invited to take a ten-year contract, worth about £60 million a year, starting on January 1, 1993. In late 1995, the ITC will review ITN's performance and consider whether a second news provider is either necessary or sustainable.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

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How far can we go to adopt?

If childless British couples want to offer a home to suffering foreign babies, should officialdom help or hinder them?

According to the health department, three couples are claiming to have the correct documents to gain an entry certificate for the same Romanian child. Whitehall officials are counting the days before a Romanian mother alleges that her child has been stolen by a British couple, and local authorities expect eventually an adopted baby will be abandoned by parents who cannot cope with its being HIV positive.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, is well aware of the problems of inter-country adoption. Her initial response regarding Romania has been to send a team from her own department and the Home Office to that country within the next few days, and to promise a review of the adoption process before the end of the year.

This is unlikely to satisfy either those who contend that a system for inter-country adoption should be designed to assist couples whose only hope of parenthood is a baby from overseas, or those determined to maintain rigorous professional vetting of couples in what they see as the children's interests.

The suggestion that a centralised British agency should be set up to handle adoptions from overseas has not found favour with Mrs Bottomley. "If anything goes wrong with a placement, the local authority or approved adoption society must take responsibility for the child," she says. "That is why it is not possible for some well-meaning international agency with no long-term responsibility to step in."

New guidelines for local authorities and adoption agencies issued in September by Bill Utting, the chief inspector of the Social Services Inspectorate, spell out the official procedure as it stands. A couple wishing to adopt from anywhere overseas should first approach their local authority and have a home report carried out by a social worker.

Once a child has been identified the parents must provide proof that the child is available for adoption, such as the signed consent of the natural parents or the mother's death certificate if the child is an orphan, and a medical certificate. The documents, together with police and health reports on the prospective parents, are vetted by the health department before being passed to the Home Office with the recommendation that an entry certificate for the child be issued.

In practice many local authorities refuse to do the home study, because adoption from abroad falls under their ban on transracial adoption, or simply because they do not have the resources to spare a social worker. The report, which is the same as the initial one for those wanting to adopt in this country, covers the ages, professions, duration of marriage and home surroundings of the prospective parents, as well as examining their reasons for wishing to adopt, and their ability to care for the child. The rules allow for charges to be made; some councils demand £2,500.

The time delay in getting Home Office entry consent for a baby from overseas can be anything from six weeks to six months, and is something few prospective parents are willing to endure. Often the study and formal procedures are done after the child has been brought into Britain without entry clearance. Since babies can travel with parents without being on their passports, the Home Office requirements can easily be circumvented.

Mrs Bottomley is concerned at those who "become frustrated and exasperated and on too many occasions take the law into their own hands and go out to find a child". How often this happens is not documented, but most educated guesses put the figure at about 100 of the 500 overseas adoptions a year.

So far no babies have been sent back. Once the local authority is presented with a *fait accompli*, short of taking the child into care because it is at risk, nothing can be done.

Stork, the self-help group of about 200 couples who have successfully adopted from overseas, believes a central agency would cut down the red tape, bypass hostile local authorities and help to identify children overseas suitable for adoption. The group welcomes regulation, and says prospective parents should be vetted in the best interests of the child, as long as the vetting criteria are less restrictive than the local authority ones which forced them to look overseas in the first place.

While Mrs Bottomley is aware of the need for change, she is concerned that the interests of the child may be missing from the current debate. "There can be no question of having a lower standard of proof or satisfaction as to the suitability of parents for children from overseas than there would be for children at home," she says.

British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) fears many unsuitable people are becoming parents. But Jenny Robson, a training consultant at BAAF, points out that with fewer than 1,000 babies available for adoption in Britain each year, and 3,500 couples who meet the agencies' criteria of age and suitability on the waiting list, "older couples have no choice but to look abroad".

LIN JENKINS

Paula Marriott went all the way to Romania — but without the proper documents, and with no official help

When Paula and Ian Marriott first saw on television the plight of the Romanian children, early this year, they immediately decided to adopt a couple of them. That they have managed to do so is the result of their tenacity and "sheer bloody-mindedness" rather than through any help or encouragement from officialdom.

Mr Marriott, aged 31, a supply consultant for IBM, and Mrs Marriott, aged 41, who has now given up her job as a project manager for a family planning committee, are unable to have children themselves and had been told that Mrs Marriott was too old to adopt a British child.

Advised by the Romanian embassy not to visit the country until after the election on April 2, they set about collecting the necessary documents, including copies of their birth and marriage certificates, references from their employers, bank and building society, and a medical certificate from the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering. Refused help by their local social services, they arranged privately — at a cost of £800 — for the required home study on themselves and their converted barn home in a Hampshire village.

Then, on March 5, Mrs Marriott saw a newspaper photograph of a British woman in Romania with a baby asleep in a suitcase, and panicked. "I thought 'my God, they're doing it, and we're getting left behind', she recalls. She and her husband flew to Bucharest "just to find out where the orphanages were, because we could find out nothing in Britain".

The British embassy in Bucharest could give no help — "I'm not an adoption agency", the vice-consul told them — but they eventually found a Romanian engineer who agreed to act as their driver, guide and interpreter. In the county town of Giurgiu in south Romania, a doctor put them in touch with a woman who wanted her baby son to be adopted. The Marriotts went to the woman's home — "a filthy two-roomed hovel with no sanitation or running water", according to Mrs Marriott — and found two-month-old Florin.

"We couldn't believe the conditions they were bringing this child up in and, although we would still have liked to take back two children, I just thought 'I've got to get him out of here', Mrs Marriott says.

First, however, they had to return home to get the necessary entry clearance papers, which could be issued only on receipt of a successful home study report which, they had now discovered, would need to be endorsed by the



Romanian baby race: "sheer bloody-mindedness" brought Jamie and Katie to Paula Marriott

local social services department. Hampshire social services refused either to endorse their private home study report or do their own home study for the purpose of entry clearance papers. Since, they told Mrs Marriott, "they did not believe in inter-country adoption".

"At that point I had the screaming heebie-jeebies, thinking 'Florin's going to die; what are we going to do?' Mrs Marriott says. They contacted a reporter on the *Daily Express*, and the subsequent article about the Marriotts' predicament resulted in Hampshire social services agreeing to endorse their private home study. Twelve days later Mrs Marriott returned to Romania, and while she was in Giurgiu to collect Florin, the same doctor showed her a 12-day-old baby girl in the maternity hospital whose father had been shot in the revolution and whose mother, who had six other children, was, according to Mrs Marriott, near to death, having suffered a postnatal haemorrhage.

Unable to look after two babies in her hotel room without sufficient milk or nappies, Mrs Marriott left the girl, Katie, in the hospital until she was ready to leave the country. A week later, Mr Marriott joined his wife and managed to get the local documentation organised. The Marriotts flew home with the two babies, who had exit visas, adoption papers and passports, but still lacked the entry clearance certificates which would allow them into Britain. "They would have taken between three and six weeks to come through," Mrs Marriott says.

At Heathrow, they spent two very uncomfortable hours with immigration officials. "We knew they weren't going to send us back, but it was within the bounds of possibility that the children could be taken into care," Mrs Marriott says. "If the worst had come to the worst I would have adopted the babies in Romania and gone to live in France. I would not have left them there."

Today, Florin — now called Jamie — and Katie are legally in Britain on an extended visa, still waiting for the adoption papers which can be issued only after they have been in the country for one year. "I think we're the luckiest

people in the land," Mrs Marriott says. While acknowledging the necessity for the British authorities to ensure that foreign children adopted by British families come to safe and suitable homes, Mrs Marriott argues: "If the best interest of the children is to be served we have to get them out of Romania first and worry where they're going afterwards."

She is aware of the moral dilemma of taking away the children of impoverished parents. "I'm trying to put myself in their position. Part of me would be pleased as punch to know my child was safe and secure, but the other part would be so upset to have to part with them."

"We'd like to think, in the future, that the kids will learn Romanian. We've already got the books to teach them — once we've taught ourselves. We've got pictures of their families and all the details about where they come from, so when they're old enough they can go back and find their parents if they want."

The Marriotts estimate that the venture cost them between £8,000 and £9,000, financed by a home improvements loan from their bank. They did not pay anything to the children's mothers — "to me that would have been immoral", Mrs Marriott says.

SALLY BROMPTON

In the name of equality

Could ending honorifics curb sexual harassment?

LANCASHIRE Polytechnic, in Preston, has opted for a "non-gender specific terminology policy". Usual clues to sex, social and professional status or marital state are excluded, and it would seem that only such bold markers as "Albert" or "Gladys" survive.

"We do not use such terms as professor, doctor, Mr, Mrs or Ms, and we warn any speakers who come here that this is our preferred policy," says Vicki Merchant, a principal lecturer in the department of social, media and community studies and the chair of the polytechnic's equal opportunities committee.

If the visitor insists, then the college defers, but otherwise social stereotypes are out of bounds. But nature, rude in punch and leer, is not so easily tamed. The polytechnic has found it necessary to extend its hard line to the area of sexual harassment. Those who offend can expect to have their crimes, if not their names, read out in public.

The first roll-call of such *folie de superiorité* happened recently at a one-day national conference on sexual harassment. Brian Booth, the poly's rector and chief executive, read out three cases of harassment during the term. A number of women had complained against the same male student, who received a first and final warning that he would be expelled if his harassing ways did not cease forthwith. The second case was against a male member of staff by a female colleague. He was given a final written warning. In the third case several members of staff complained about a workman on the campus who was apt to wolf whistle at any passing woman who caught his fancy. He was reprimanded by his employer and the whistling stopped.

Mr Booth agrees that three cases in an institution with 10,000 students, 1,200 employees and some 300 contract workers hardly points to an epidemic of sexual harassment. But Vicki Merchant insists that numbers are not the point and that harassment is a serious problem. "Many people do not come forward because they are in powerless positions in institutions. We have to create a climate in which people feel confident that their complaint will be dealt with confidentially," she says.

A survey of 2,500 students and staff at the college to discover attitudes towards sexual harassment produced a mixed response. The polytechnic's "ledgehammer to crack a nut" approach deflated the object and alienated people, one person said. But women students said men students tended to be sexist and chauvinistic, however subconsciously, and regarded women as inferior. Only one male student had felt seriously harassed by a female member of staff. He sought advice and then dealt with the problem himself.

RONALD FAUX

'When they're old enough they can go back and find their parents if they want'

& BRIEFLY

Masters of the house

YOUNG & Marten, still flourishing in East London, was one of the largest builders' merchants of the late Victorian era, and its catalogues afford possibly the most complete illustrated collection of the fixtures and fittings available to the Victorian builder and home owner. ("A more complete compendium of the various requirements of the building trade it would be impossible to desire," *Building News* reported in 1897.) Today's inhabitants of such houses should be delighted by the publication tomorrow of *The Victorian House Catalogue* (Sidgwick & Jackson, £19.99), whether they are looking for replacements, contemplating restoration, or trying to determine whether the so-called period details in their homes are accurate.

Peter Howell, chairman of the Victorian Society, writes in his introduction: "It is to be hoped that those restoring Victorian houses will respect the social hierarchy. A bastard statutory chimney piece that cost 225 shillings would clearly be out of place in a house which could only have run to enamelled slate at 30s 9d... The fact that these hierarchies are demonstrated in such manifest ways is one of the fascinations of this book."

Dress sense

ACCUSTOMED to swimming against the tide, the Women's Environmental Network (Wen) has chosen the peak shopping period, when everyone is supposed to spend, spend, spend on party finery and Christmas clothes,

to launch its campaign on "Women, Clothing and the Environment". Wen claims that "fashion manufacturers persuade us to join in a wasteful cycle of purchase and disposal. It is estimated that we spend £30 billion a year on new clothes, while we throw away one million tons of old ones each year."

The clothing we wear has an impact on the environment, the group claims. Cotton and wool make use of potentially toxic pesticides, silk production takes up land that could be used to grow food for the Third World, and synthetics are not biodegradable and may contain formaldehyde, a contributor to the greenhouse effect, or release deadly dioxins during their production.

For a free colour catalogue, contact the Teddy Bear Museum, 19 Greenhill Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6LF (0789 293160).

Bear necessities

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For a free colour catalogue, contact the Teddy Bear Museum, 19 Greenhill Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6LF (0789 293160).

VICTORIA MCKEE

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ARTS

BRIEFING

Winning the lion's share

GIANCARLO Parretti may have bought the lion, but can it still roar? Having completed his \$1.3 billion acquisition of MGM/UA last week, the Italian financier now faces an even taller order: restoring creative credibility to a near dormant film studio.

One possible solution would be to indulge in highly visible spending on scripts and stars. But Parretti has mortgaged the studio to the hilt in order to finance the acquisition; there is little money left in the kitty to throw around at auctions. Furthermore, one of the studio's most lucrative relationships may be about to finish: Albert "Cubby" Broccoli, producer of the James Bond films, is trying to end the distribution agreement between MGM/UA and his own company, Danjaq. Broccoli is reported to be angry that his Bond titles have been included in Parretti's deals and that rights to important titles have been sold at bargain prices without Danjaq having been consulted.

Masked intentions

THE removal of a sculpture by Russell de Rozario from an exhibition in Luton Library last week has been referred to the National Council for Civil Liberties. The sculpture - showing Britain being ravished by an alien wearing a Margaret Thatcher mask - was removed after a complaint from a local Tory MP, Graham Bright. Now one of de Rozario's supporters, Peter Wakeham, has taken the case to the NCCCL.

"We believe this is an act of political censorship," said Wakeham. "It has been represented that the piece is about sex, but it was



Bright: objection sustained

not sexual at all: it was a political reference to Mrs Thatcher screwing up the country." According to Wakeham, the artist did not know his sculpture was being removed in advance and was later offered compensation of £60 when it was damaged in the process.

By George

A REWORKING of the 1927 George Gershwin musical *Funny Face* is set to come to the London Palladium on March 24 - for one night only. Called *My One and Only*, it ran on Broadway for two years in the early 1980s, with Twiggy and Tommy Tune in the leading roles. Now the Gershwin family has given permission for the score (containing such classics as "Funny Face" and "S Wonderful") to be produced as a one-off charity gala in aid of the Family Welfare Association.

Last chance

THE tattlemongers of Peter Wood's *The School for Scandal*, at the National Theatre (071-928 2033), will be munging their last tattle this Saturday. The final performances begin tonight, with tomorrow a signed performance for the deaf. Prunella Scales, Jane Asher and Denis Quilley have been with the play since it opened. The only major cast change saw John Neville in the role of the bemused but dignified Sir Peter Teazle, direct from playing the same role in the modern dress production at the Royal Exchange, Manchester. Next month, in *The Wind in The Willows*, Neillston peers down from the magistrate's bench at Griff Rhys Jones's bouncing Captain Toad.

THEATRE

Stage managed by clever planning

London's fringe theatres are forming unlikely alliances with big property developers, reports Rupert Smith

When it was announced in September that the Soho Theatre (better known as the Soho Poly) had found a new home thanks to the largesse of a private development firm, many in the theatre world rubbed their hands with glee. Although business sponsorship of the arts has grown as local authority funding has dwindled, it is rare for a company to commit itself to such a generous deal as that offered to the Soho Poly: a brand-new, custom-built, 200-seat theatre, fully equipped, at a peppercorn rent.

The new Queensway Theatre, located in the basement of an old cinema in west London, is being built and fitted out by Provincial House Group plc at a cost of £2 million. Its intervention has saved the Soho Poly from homelessness as the lease on its current premises - the cramped 50-seater in the Polytechnic of Central London - expires.

The Soho Theatre Company is not alone in its good fortune. At least three other well-established London fringe theatres are in line for new venues. Each is the result of similar generosity by developers. The Bush Theatre is set to move from its current home into new premises in the White City super-mall, a vast shopping and leisure complex being developed by Balfour Beatty in 1994. The Orange Tree in Richmond is doubling its space when it moves into a converted schoolhouse being developed by County and District Properties. The beleaguered Half Moon may gain from a similar deal.

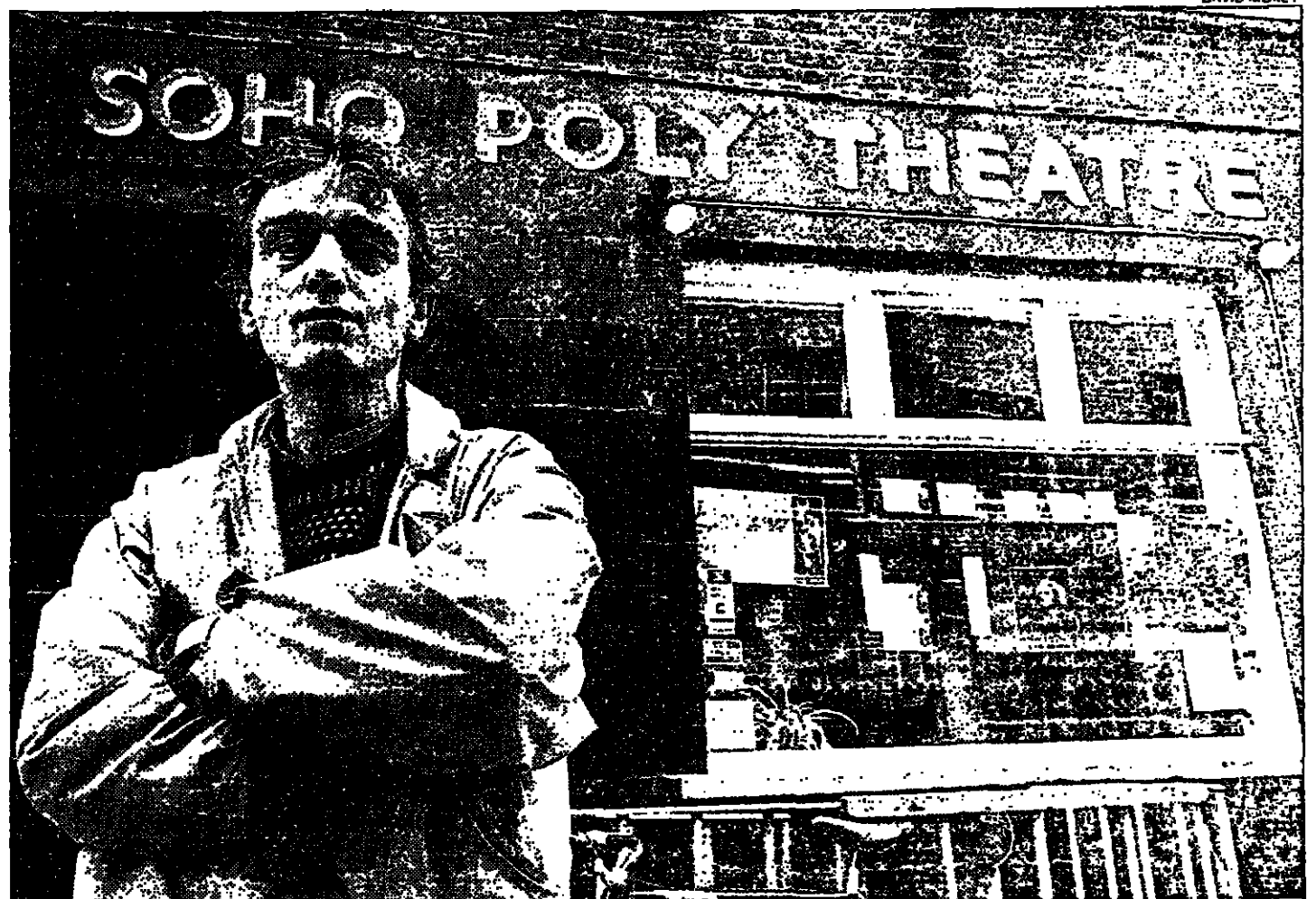
Let anyone suspect that the developers are acting selflessly, it should be made clear that they are entering into these agreements out of expediency. A provision in the Town and Country Planning Act (1971) allows local planning authorities to "restrict or regulate" the use of a site according to local needs. In effect, this means that if a developer wants to build an office block, the council can insist that there should be something in

the development of use to the community. In the cases of the Soho Poly, the Bush and the Orange Tree, it has been decided that the residents of the boroughs concerned would like a new theatre. The developers, after signing the agreement, cannot proceed unless the so-called "planning gain" is honoured.

Tony Crazie, artistic director of the Soho Theatre Company, is grateful for the reprieve, if not wholly convinced by the process. "Councils will increasingly look for this kind of return from developers they're giving planning permission to," he says. "That will provide some new spaces, but it would be a grave mistake to see this as an alternative to government funding of the arts. We have to take advantage of this offer simply because the Arts Council won't support small spaces like the Soho Poly any more. They're losing too much money. With a bigger auditorium, we have a better chance of at least breaking even, and we can attract bigger, better visiting companies."

With the Arts Council seemingly unable to support theatres of less than 200 capacity, and with its housing fund abolished, building-based theatre companies are obliged to try their luck with developers if they are to avoid closure. Soho has been lucky in finding a development in the right place at the right time; others, such as the Young Vic, have not yet been as fortunate. Crazie, like other beneficiaries of planning gains, is confident that he can fill a larger space. His company's commitment to new writing hardly guarantees full houses, but Soho's reputation for encouraging theatrical stars (Caryl Churchill, Hanif Kureishi, Barrie Keefe and Kimberlake Wertheimer all had premieres there) gives it extra pulling-power.

Other schemes for new theatres in London perhaps rely too much on the size of potential audiences. A massive 3,500-seat theatre was, at one stage, planned to appear on the South Bank as part of the ill-fated County Hall develop-



Tony Crazie, outside the Soho Poly Theatre, soon to be vacated: "The trick is not to be seduced. We have to carry on being subversive."

ment, designed to provide a home for visitors such as the Kirov and Bolshoi ballet companies, and the Metropolitan Opera. But plans were shelved at an early stage.

The Entertainment Corporation, British promoters of Russian ballet, had been involved as consultants on the project, and are still smarting from its collapse. Peter Brightman, director of the Entertainment Corporation, remains determined to build a theatre where his Russian clients can perform in the spacious conditions to which they are accustomed; whether there are sufficient balletomanes in London to fill 3,500 seats a night is debatable, particularly if the chosen venue is in the Battersea or Wandsworth area,

as the current plans suggest.

Besides worries about ticket sales, there is also the fear that theatre companies might become locked into new venues which turn out to involve high running costs: the experience of the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican casts a long shadow. Also causing concern in some quarters is the fear that independent, experimental theatres are being seduced into soulless commercial environments, where they compete for public attention with multiscreen cinemas, shops and restaurants. The Queensway development, as with those in White City and Richmond, is a shopping mall tucked underneath acres of office space.

The Spitalfields development in east London was to have provided

a similar environment for another theatre company (Manchester Royal Exchange was the most likely choice) in another concrete and steel warren. But Chris Patten, the environment secretary, decreed that the plans were unacceptable and has put the whole development on ice. Plans by Thames Water Authority for its property in Islington may result in a new theatre for Sadler's Wells, but possibly at the cost of the existing theatre building.

While the decision of developers and councils to provide new theatres is laudable, the process highlights a lack of coherent public funding and a disregard for the qualities of existing venues. If companies have no choice but to move into new developments, they risk losing the individual

characters of their old venues, and the support of audiences who may prefer the accessible familiarity of a cramped Victorian theatre to the anonymity of a commercial development.

"The trick," says Tony Crazie, "is not to be seduced when we get there. We have to keep our integrity and carry on being subversive, even in a commercial environment." Nevertheless, the Soho Poly and the Orange Tree - although they flourished in cramped buildings - are fortunate to be able to expand. For other companies, the right development may not come along. Reliant on the attitudes of planning departments and the suitability of sites, planning gains still seem too hit-and-miss to provide a coherent means of theatre funding.

BOOKS

The tale of Potter riches

Joseph Connolly examines the continued popularity of the works of Beatrix Potter

At the end of this month, the Beatrix Potter Society celebrates its tenth anniversary, though what might strike some as surprising is not the existence of such a group, but the fact that it was formed so recently, and that it remains comparatively unknown. Its international membership of just 800 also seems rather small when contrasted with the mass popularity of Beatrix Potter, which began soon after publication of the first of her works - *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, in 1901.

Yet the society which celebrates her work is not interested in attracting members. "The society was founded by a small group of people to demonstrate that there is a great deal more to 'B.P.' than most people think, but most of all to further research into all aspects of her work," says chairman Judy Taylor, the author of two books on Potter and editor of her letters. The society is a registered charity, and wholly self-financing, yet all those concerned seem reluctant to expand the venture. "We don't actually discourage membership," says the publicity officer, Audrey Parker, "but we only want people who are seriously interested."

Of course, to most people the world of Beatrix Potter is not "serious" at all. "I know that B.P. is largely perceived as being synonymous with Peter Rabbit," says Taylor, "but more people are coming round to, for instance, her work as a landscape and natural history artist." The Tate Gallery retrospective of 1987 formed a

highlight of the society's achievements, when Potter's meticulous watercolours of fungi and flowers were displayed alongside sketches and artwork for her 23 books.

As well as organising a biennial conference which is held in Beatrix Potter's Derwentwater (many members taking the opportunity to see the actual settings of the tales of Benjamin Bunny and Squirrel Nutkin), Taylor is compiling a book of Potter's illustrated letters to children and interviewing many of the children to whom they were originally sent. Further evidence of Potter's diversity may currently be seen at the Museum of London with a fine exhibition of archaeological watercolours which pre-date Peter Rabbit by six or seven years.

But what of the commercial aspects of her work? Beatrix Potter remains, nearly 50 years after her death, a colossal moneyspinner. Mention of those 50 years gives rise to what could potentially be a great concern for Warner and Co - Potter's publisher since 1902 - for the law of copyright states that 50 years after the death of an author, his or her works enter the public domain. In the mid 1980s, however, Warner was bought by Viking Penguin, one of whose first acts was to reorganise the watercolours and republish the books. The twin results of this endeavour were bright, sharp artwork and a new establishment of copyright for the reorganised plates.

"In theory," says Sally Floyer of



"And then he ate some radishes" from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

Warne, "anyone can publish Beatrix Potter in 1994, but in practice it might prove difficult." This is because all the formats of every book remain protected, as is the imagery on all of the spin-off merchandising. Warner therefore continues to license manufacturers (some would say to an excessive degree) and the familiar characters continue to appear on anything and everything. "The product must be of high quality, and suitable," adds Floyer, "and certainly nothing plastic and cheap."

The society's members are not at all disconcerted by this plethora of merchandising, pointing to the fact that Potter herself was similarly enterprising as early as 1904, when she made a Peter Rabbit doll because, she said, the toy rabbits in Harrods were "so ugly". It failed to be manufactured because she insisted it be made in Britain at a time when all soft toys were imports, and although Potter also failed to have her Peter Rabbit wallpaper accepted by either Liberty or Sanderson (who thought it too old-fashioned), she was soon overseeing production of board games, painting and colouring books, slippers, bibs, handkerchiefs, calendars and even hot-water bottles.

What did impel the society to close ranks, however, was last year's launch of three Potter titles by Ladybird, in which the texts were altered and interspersed with colour photographs of puppets. The public outrage caused by the appearance of these books was ill-informed (most people having received the impression that they were set to replace the classics, rather than sell alongside them) but Taylor is unrepentant. "I led the outcry against the Ladybirds. They trivialise B.P.'s work and are very boring indeed."

But there would appear to be room for co-existence: Warner sells an annual 75,000 copies of *Peter Rabbit* in the United Kingdom alone, while Ladybird's three launch titles - with two more coming next year - have each

TELEVISION

Prescriptive abuse

GROUPS of anonymous, middle-aged men are caught on golf courses or emerging from expensive restaurants and asked to explain who is paying for them to be there. Sometimes an attempt is made to grab a camera or its film; sometimes the men respond sheepishly with the truth, or bluster through the ritual none-of-your-business routine. These men are not spies, or double-glazing salesmen caught taking back-handers. They are, in fact, respectable doctors who see nothing wrong with accepting cash payments from the representatives of drug companies in return for increased orders, nor with going abroad for long weekends at the expense of these companies.

James Cutler, whose recent investigation of child cancer cases around the nuclear plant at Windscale forced a government enquiry, came up with another shocker for Yorkshire's *First Tuesday* on ITV last night. "Sweetening the Medicine" found several former drug salesmen willing to testify on "hard-sell" techniques whereby doctors were offered gifts, holidays and sometimes just cheques in order to encourage them to prescribe or simply recommend a certain product. Astonishingly, there is no legal machinery here to punish the guilty: just a self-regulating code of practice by the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries which, when faced (as it recently has been) by hard evidence of bribery and corruption, can do no

more than strike a company off its register for 12 months.

The National Health Service now spends £2.5 billion on drugs every year; to make sure that the money ends up in the right laps, drug companies now spend £2,000 a year per doctor on promotional activities. In fact there is one drug representative for every 12 doctors. The appalling truth here is not that rules are being broken, but that there are no rules: the combination of secrecy and self-satisfaction which has always characterised the worst aspects of the medical profession has led to a general agreement that the whole affair should be kept under wraps. That is despite the fact that several careers have been ruined when drug representatives with a conscience tried to blow the whistle on their often multinational and millionaire corporate employers.

One former representative resigned because she found herself going home wondering whether she was putting lives at risk by bribing doctors into prescribing her company's products, or by keeping tactfully quiet about reports indicating that they might be less than totally harmless. Unmoved by any such evidence, the health department noted as the programme closed that it was perfectly happy with a toothless code of practice which would appear on some occasions actually to be a code for malpractice.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

CHRISTIE'S

John Emms, *Clumber Spaniels at the end of the day* - 36 x 24 in. Sold on 14 February for £22,825

Man's Best Friends

Christie's will be holding their fourth important sale of Pictures of Dogs and Cats entitled *Man's Best Friends* at 8 King Street, London SW1 on 15 January 1991

Entries are now invited.

The closing date is 30 November 1990

For further information please contact Neil Wilson on (071) 581 7611 ext. 3252 or Martin Beisly on (071) 839 9060 ext. 2468

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Private Lives

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SEASON EXTENDED TO JANUARY 26TH

BOOKING NOW FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK: BOXING DAY 26 DEC: 5.00 & 8.30
THURS 27 DEC: 8.00 FRI 28 DEC: 5.00 & 8.30 SAT 29 DEC: 5.00 & 8.30
ALDWYCH THEATRE: BOX OFFICE/CREDIT CARDS: 071 836 6404

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laura Meyer
8.50 Daytime UK
9.00 News, regional news and weather
9.05 Brainwaves. Quiz show presented by Andy Craig 9.25 Dish of the Day. More helpful cookery tips 9.30 People Today. A chance to telephone the television doctor
10.00 News, regional news and weather
10.05 Children's BBC. Introduced by Simon Pegg, begins with Playdays
10.25 The Family News. Cartoon series (10.40) News, regional news and weather



The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh (10.45am)

10.45 State Opening of Parliament. The procession from Buckingham Palace to the Houses of Parliament on the Queen's speech outlining proposed government legislation for the next parliamentary session
12.00 News, regional news and weather
12.05 After Noon. Cllr Michelson and Wendy Gibson invite viewers to recall favourite moments

BBC 2

8.00 News
8.15 Arthur Negus Enjoys Lanthrylock House in Cornwall (r)
8.30 Look, Stranger. A portrait of Alan Bloom, horticulturalist and steam engine enthusiast (r)
9.00 Daytime on Two: France and the French 9.15 Three people who changed careers when in their fifties 9.45 Science drama for the young 10.00 A miscellany for pre-school children
10.15 Re-cycling waste 10.40 A portrait of a street in Stirling 11.00 Learning to read 11.15 Language and how it is used 11.35 For teachers of the new Science Challenge series 12.10 Fitness and muscles 12.30 Meddling with a lion shark 12.55 Science on computers in society 1.20 The Adventures of Spot 1.25 What's Inside? 1.40 On the trail of treasure
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r)
2.15 Westminster Live. Vivian White and Sam Curran interview the government's planned new legislation for the session. Leaders of all main parties will speak. Includes News and weather at 3.00 and 3.50
5.00 Behind the Headlines. Beverly Anderson chairs a discussion on why some disabled people are angry about being the recipients of charity. Among those taking part are Barbara Liskov from the Campaign to Stop Patronage, Kevin Mulhern, a blind television producer, and Joe Simpson, secretary of TV's Telethon Trust
5.30 News: No Business Like Great Business. The world of the Prince of Wales joins the country's top

12.20 Soane Today 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Going for Gold 2.15 Knots Landing. Soapie dramas concerning the poor relations of the Texas Ewing clan
3.05 Pinnetime. A look forward to Remembrance Day with wartime artist Phyllis Pearsall, whose drawings recorded women at war, Christabel Leighton-Porter, who became the wartime strip cartoon sex symbol Jane; and old soldiers from the Commonwealth 3.45 Popeye (b/w) (r)
3.50 Two by Two. Mature series for the young 4.05 Quack Chat Show 4.20 Fantastic Mix. Cartoon 4.35 Harbinger. Art instruction from Tony Hart. (Ceefax)
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Byker Grove. Drama series set in Tyneside. (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland Sportsworld
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Northern Ireland. Neighbours
7.00 Wogan with studio guests Anna Rice and Bobby Vinton. Via satellite, Terry meets residents of Stroudwater, Washington State, the town where Twin Peaks was filmed
7.35 Double Hower. MD. Pleasant American comedy series about a teenage doctor. (Ceefax)
8.00 The Trials of Life. Mating. Making. A CHOICE. Much has happened since said about the superb photography on Sir David Attenborough's latest wildlife blockbuster but as the series reaches its half-way point, it becomes more and more obvious that the real star is Attenborough himself.

I suspect that thousands with little interest in the subject switch on to his shows because they are beguiled by his relentless, finger-stabbing enthusiasm and ability to place himself in the most extraordinary locations. In tonight's discourse about how animals build their homes, he opens in a Welsh cave but reserves his most spectacular appearance for a tropical rain forest, which lives up to its name by emptying the heavens on our countless presenters. It is not quite the Patrick Moore class for maniacs, Abernethy is becoming very easy to parody, although that in a way is the ultimate accolade. (Ceefax)
8.50 Points of View with Cleve Anderson
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Mervyn Lawes. Weather
9.30 Canned Carrots. More ruminations from the clever comedian (Ceefax)
10.00 Sportsnight: European Football and Boxing. Glasgow Rangers, three-nil down from the final leg, face an uphill task to defeat Yugoslavians at Red Star Belgrade at Ibrox Park for a place in the quarter-final of the European Cup; and Steve Rider profiles Kirkland Lang, who defends his European heavyweight title next week against the Italian Frank Zuretti
11.30 Film: Lady in Cement (1988) starring Frank Sinatra and Raquel Welch. While driving for treasure off the Florida coast, a private eye finds a woman at the bottom of the sea, with blond hair and large canine fangs. She is, of course, very close to the heart of the matter to find out who killed her. Routine private eye stuff, with the stars doing all that is expected of them by a script that expects not much.
1.00am Weather



Michael (left) and Gert Hofmanns (8.10pm)

businessmen and launched a campaign to turn British business green. Michael Burk looks at the effects of this on British industry and at the competition presented by Germany (r). (Ceefax)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Captain Jean Luc Picard's past glories threaten destruction for the new USS Enterprise (Ceefax)
6.50 DEF II: Dance Energy Update. Normski with the latest videos and dance charts. Autobiography of the USA. A personal view of American history 7.00 Extra. Magazine featuring information on how Europeans live their lives 7.40 Rapido. Antoine de Caunes races through another cross-country music show. Featuring Paul Simon in Brazil
8.10 Booktime: My Father's House. A CHOICE. Michael Hofmann is an Old Etonian poet and his father, Gert Hofmann, a German novelist. Distanced emotionally as well as geographically, they communicate with each other mainly through their writings. The interchange lands to be acrimonious, with Michael's poems scathing about his father and dad replying in kind. Kevin Hull's film follows Michael on a fence-mending trip to see his father in Bavaria and father and son setting out across the desert frontier to trace ancestors in East Germany. Fact and fiction keep intertwining, with Michael's researches in the local register of births revealing uncomfortable truths at variance with the supposed truth of his father's latest novel. Strained conversations between the two men on a park bench suggest that it is going to take more than a television documentary to exorcise the pain

9.00 M*A*S*H. More black humour as Colonel Potter goes on business for a week and leaves the pompous Major Winchester in charge (r)
9.25 Blood Ring. The punchy dramatisation of Mike Phillips's best-selling thriller about the search for an MP's daughter who has apparently been kidnapped. Brian Bovel plays the investigator Sammy Dean and Hermione Norris is Virginia, the missing woman (r)
10.20 Fifth Column. South African lawyer Albie Sachs reflects on the future of his country where black is now killing black
10.30 Newsnight. The latest national and international news
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media on a park bench suggest that it is going to take more than a television documentary to exorcise the pain
12.00 Behind the Headlines. See 5.00. Ends at 12.35am

ITV LONDON

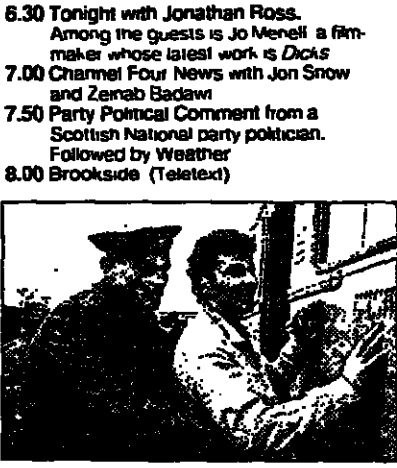
6.00 TV-am begins with News and Good Morning Britain presented by Maya Evers and, from 7.00, by Richard Keys and Lorraine Kelly. News and weather on the hour with headlines on the hour and the Doc Spot at 6.20 and 8.35 Dr Hilary Jones talks about his experiences in the New York marathon. After Nine, presented by Kathy Taylor, includes the Rev John Eley with a recipe for a Christmas pudding
9.25 Keynotes. Musical quiz hosted by Neil Patrick Harris 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... John Stapleton asks the authors of a book for primary school children which details sexual positions whether they can justify it to parents
10.40 The Morning. Magazine programme presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Turner. Denise Robertson, the agony aunt, is on hand to help viewers with their problems and Elaine Lipworth presents her celebrity review. Five Flavours of the Orient with more exotic dishes. With national and international news headlines at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather
12.05 Allsorts. Young children's entertainment 12.25 Home and Away. Australian soap 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News with John Suchet. Weather
1.20 The Body Works. Carol Keating and Neil Buchanan discuss health and beauty. Neil discovers why male cosmetic sales are booming, and leading hairdresser John Franks

reveals how he keeps healthy 1.50 A Country Practice. Australian drama based around a rural community health centre
2.20 Take the High Road. Scottish soap set in a Highland village 2.50 Talkabout. Andrew O'Connor hosts the game in which the gift of the gab is the secret of success 3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian soap set in a large day hospital
3.55 Nellie the Elephant. Animated fun with the combsome, trendy pachyderm 4.00 Hot Dog 4.15 Milk and Honey. Drama series starring Tyler Buitworth and Matt Wright (r) 4.40 Roff's Cartoon Club presented by Roff Harris
5.10 Blockbusters. Quiz show for teenagers presented by Bob Holmes 5.45 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 5.55 Thames Help. Jackie Sprockley with details of the Swan Sanctuary in Egham
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
6.50 Coronation Street. Further dramas concerning the regulars of the Rovers Return (Oracle)
7.20 The Match. A double bill of top European football featuring live coverage from the San Siro stadium. Action of the UEFA Cup second round, second leg game in which Aston Villa defend a two goal advantage over Inter Milan, one of Italy's top clubs, plus highlights of the European Cup Winners' Cup second round match between Wertheim of the fourth division and mighty Manchester United. The commentators are Brian Moore and Alan Parry
10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Clark 10.30 Thames News and weather

10.40 Film: Murder by Decree (1979) starring Christopher Plummer, James Mason, Donald Sutherland, Genevieve Buylod and David Hemmings. Sherlock Holmes investigates the murders of prostitutes at the hands of Jack the Ripper in the city of London. The trail leads him to an unexpected conclusion, when he realises he is not the hunter but the prey. Although unnecessarily complex in places, the magnificent performances of the cast and the authentic London sets make this a wonderful period thriller, and the film successfully manages to blend fact with fiction. Directed by Bob Clark
12.40 Ice Skating. The Skate Electric British Championships. Nick Owen introduces action from Basingstoke
1.15 Fantasy Stars. A look at science fiction, horror, thriller and fantasy films. Featuring the actors, the characters and the special effects wizards. Followed by News headlines
2.15 Videoflash. As the barriers come down in eastern Europe, the world witnesses the emergence of exciting new global styles
2.40 America's Top Ten with Casey Kasem and Tommy Pust
3.10 Quiz Night. Inter pub and club general knowledge quiz hosted by Ross King
3.40 Books by My Bedside. Pet Shop Boy Neil Tennant talks to Brough Scott about his current reading matter. Followed by News headlines
4.10 Windsurf. Sailboard action
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). A review of 1940 and what was making the headlines in early November, with the help of old newspaper clippings
5.00 ITN Morning News with Brenda Rowe. Winds at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Art of Landscape. Stunning scenery set to a soothing soundtrack
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
8.25 School Report
12.00 The Parliament Programme
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news service
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children
2.00 Film: Adam Had Four Sons (1941, b/w). Minor romantic melodrama starring Ingrid Bergman, in one of her early Hollywood roles, as a devoted French governess who looks after the four sons of a French aristocrat. When the mother dies, the governess is sent home, only to be asked back as a housekeeper years later when the boys have grown up. She commits a noble act of self-sacrifice which results in romance. Directed by Gregory La Cava
3.30 Ice Skating. The Skate Electric British Championships. Nick Owen is in Basingstoke to watch Rob Cousins defend his British senior men's title
4.30 Fittes-to-Go. William G. Stewart hosts the general knowledge quiz
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah Winfrey, the first black woman to host a self-interest attempt to preserve the privileges they have been enjoying under the old system. Vladimir Olenik, a supporter of Boris Yeltsin in the Russian parliament, says that organised criminals have taken control of every level of society, while a former policeman, Alexander Stashkov, alleges that the black marketeers are helped by widespread corruption in the force. The Soviet black market



Caught in the act: a black marketeer (8.30pm)

has existed for years. Now it is being used to wreck perestroika
9.15 Without Walls. For Love or Money. The provocative arts series presents its regular monthly slot on the international collecting market and the troubled relationship between art and money. There is a report from New York on the soft sell tactics of contemporary art dealers and a leading Bond Street trader is sent bargaining hunting down London's Portobello Road. Whoddy came game show host Gary continues globe trotting without ever leaving the comfort of his own studio. The exotic East beckons this week
11.00 Sex Talk. Trick or Cheat? Does Monogamy Work? Mark Chase leads another intimate discussion on sexual attitudes. Tonight's topic is infidelity. By the time they reach 40, more than half of married people have had an affair. When a relationship loses its sparkle what are the choices that couples face and can a marriage survive an affair?
11.45 She-Play: Mug. A series of short and snappy plays from female writers new to television. Maria Oshodi's piece is about a mugging victim (Heather Inman) who plans to take revenge. With Suzanne Krawiec and Clara Perkins
12.00 Sid Caesar's Show of Shows (b/w). Highlights from Sid Caesar's classic comedy series
12.30am Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers. Art Blakey, one of jazz's all-time greats, died last month. This is a recording of Blakey and the Jazz Messengers in a Washington DC concert. Watch out for the wonderful Wynton Marsalis on trumpet. Ends at 1.35

ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 6.30am-6.50 Anglia News 1.15am Sun With Niamh 1.35m Sun Night 2.05m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 3.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 4.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 4.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 5.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 5.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 6.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 6.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 7.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 7.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 8.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 8.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 9.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 9.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 10.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 10.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 11.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 11.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 12.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 12.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 1.15am Sun. The Writing on the Wall 1.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 2.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 2.45m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 3.15m Sun. The Writing on the Wall 3.45m Sun. 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By WILLIAM CASH

RSC pair attack Barbican

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

Miss O'Cathain has asked, through the corporation, to join the RSC board, but Mr Cass said this would be "inappropriate."

The children's novel category, won by Peter Dickinson for *AK*, was to be viewed as a strong possible contender as the prize has never been won by a children's novel and historical pressure may prevail.



He seemed to have recovered his sense of humour after the sour tone of his first public appearance since his injury last week, and dismissed his bungled ministra-

Officials dismissed suggestions of a sluggish start to the nationwide scheme, and said that the past six months had been spent setting-up local committees to run the scheme. By 1993, the Volunteers expect a total of 10,000 young people to have attended courses of between 12 and 18 weeks and, by the year 2000, when the project is fully operational, they expect 100,000 young people a year to pass through the scheme, performing community service and learning to act as auxiliaries to the emergency services. The prince, addressing 150 personnel

"It seems, over the last few years, that the situation and the attitudes have changed somewhat and now we have a situation where there is more enthusiasm for the kind of ideas which the Volunteers project represents," he said. The prince urged more employers to release their young staff so that they could participate in the scheme. By the end of this year, the Volunteers plan to have set up further teams in Dundee, Glasgow, Manchester, Wolverhampton, south London and Belfast.

From MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT IN GENEVA

Husain warning, page 11
Diary, page 12

Continued from page 1

This would solve two problems currently facing the Soviet military: the pressure from conscripts and their families to serve only in their home republic, and the unpopularity of service in the Interior Ministry troops which have been used to suppress ethnic violence in the Caucasus and

Although Mr Gorbachev and his team are trying to rush through a new structure for the Soviet Union in an attempt to preserve semblance of a federation and prevent the present disintegration going further, their efforts are arguably too late. The US State Department is lobbying for the money to set up consulates in as many Soviet republics as possible in anticipation of further separation, and senior Western businessmen who have visited Moscow in recent weeks are reported to have come away with the impression that as an investment proposition the Soviet Union no longer exists.

23 Kind and original thing to say on retirement (4, 5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18.444

I	M	P	U	R	E	S	P	A	C	E	A	G	E
N	E	E	E	A	E	E	Q	A	N	X			
S	A	N	D	P	A	P	E	R		W	I	T	
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G	E	N	T	E	E	L		O	R	D	I	N	
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S	I												
P	R	E	S	S									
L	D	M	E										
A	D	O	E										
S	M	O	N										

8 Girl's outfit, tatty at the edges (5)

13 Board here see workers over principal item of policy (9)

15 Glasses held up but abandoned again, we hear (9)

16 Illness – one leaving a girl pale and giddy (8)

18 Tire out the eye first, finding the spacecraft (7)

20 Saint led exceptional uprising behind Iron Curtain (7)

21 He may catch a crab for pet (6)

22 Upped by slice (3, 2)

23 Paper requiring much manual labour? (5)

Concise crossword, page 15

East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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Wavy front Cold front
Occluded front

Warty front Cold front
Occupied front

An autumn yawn for Mr Major

COMMENT

After the overdose of economic and political developments in the last few weeks, the markets will find it hard to get excited about anything that might be said in the autumn statement tomorrow. Fortunately, a huge collective yawn from the markets and the public would suit the Chancellor perfectly well at the moment.

True, there have been rumours heard in the more speculative corners of the short-termist market that the autumn statement might pave the way for an immediate cut in interest rates, perhaps as early as this week.

But such hopes seem distinctly over-optimistic. The CBI may be howling about recession, and the Treasury's own model seems likely to confirm the grim outlook, but another cut in interest rates when sterling is well below its ERM mid-point would certainly be judged premature by the foreign exchange traders. The likelihood for the next cut in base rates still seems to be the middle of December, after the publication of the November retail price figures, which should show a big fall in headline

inflation, perhaps even below the 10 per cent mark.

Until then, the best the Chancellor can hope for is to keep the cynics at bay with reassurances about the prospect for disinflation next year and a stout defence of the government's policies on public spending. The first should be reasonably easy to give, since virtually all independent forecasters expect a spectacular drop in the headline inflation rate by the middle of next year. Indeed, the Treasury could simply push out to the fourth quarter of 1991 the forecast of 5 per cent inflation which it projected for the second quarter at the time of the last Budget. The markets would probably regard such a forecast as plausible, although some analysts have come up with a curious quibble on this point. The lower the inflation forecast in the autumn statement, the greater will be the City's cynicism, they argue, since a headline inflation

figure of 5 per cent or less could be achieved most easily through very dramatic cuts in mortgage rates between now and then.

On the more concrete matters of public spending and funding, the Chancellor will have a tougher presentational task. The City would be astonished if the public expenditure planning total came in below £200bn. Most estimates seem to be ranging from £201bn to £204bn. What this implies is an excess of £9bn over last year's projection of £192.25bn, one of the biggest overshoots since the present system of planning public expenditure was established.

A planning total of over £200bn would also mean abandonment of the government's long-championed objective of steadily cutting public spending in relation to GDP, a point which

the Chancellor virtually acknowledged in his Mansion House speech last month.

Even more worryingly, the high public spending, combined with a shortfall in revenue due to the recession could well mean a return to net public borrowing in 1991/92. Most gilt brokers are still hedging their bets by forecasting a virtual break-even in the public sector accounts or even a small public sector debt repayment.

Brussels hole

There is a nice irony in the merger between Nationale-Nederlanden and NMB Postbank, respectively Holland's largest insurance group and second biggest bank, which exposes flaws in the European

Commission's new merger regulation policy.

The proposed group, with combined net assets of more than Dfl15.5 billion (£4.68 billion), is undoubtedly large enough to warrant an EC investigation. But the EC regulations also state that if both companies have more than two-thirds of their business in a single member state, the merger should be regulated by the relevant national authority.

Most of Nat-Ned's and NMB's business is indeed in Holland. The merger however still looks likely to be referred to the EC due to Nat-Ned's American non-life business, which supplies a quarter of the group's premiums.

Any EC involvement will please the Consumentebond, the Dutch consumer group, which yesterday claimed the merger would have terrible effects on the consumer.

But it will take more to smooth the feathers of Nat-Ned's shareholders, who are cheesed off at

the terms on offer to NMB's owners. The deal represents a 10 per cent premium on NMB's suspension price on Monday of Dfl37.6. Not surprisingly, Nat-Ned's shares lost Dfl5 in early trading yesterday, while NMB's gained a similar amount.

Nat-Ned's defence is that its shareholders will control 69 per cent of the shares and see a 15 per cent gain in earnings per share this year. This suggests the merger is an old-fashioned takeover, dressed in sheep's clothing.

Both sides also have to justify the whole basis for the merger. True, Nat-Ned will be able to exploit Postbank's wide customer base. But it could have achieved this through a co-operation agreement and a modest cross-holding. Instead, the move seems distinctly defensive, in a country where many senior executives are terrified of hostile takeovers, and where the leading electronics group, Philips, is so hedged around with poison pills and restrictive shareholdings that a straightforward takeover is well nigh impossible.

HENDERSON Administration's clients are voting with their feet. The fund manager lost a net 12 institutional customers in the six months to end-September, and £260 million of their money, the penalty for four years of mediocre performance.

Coupled with the fall in world equity markets, Henderson's total of funds under management has shrunk 23 per cent to £6.83 billion in the past year. As a result, the group's income fell 8 per cent to £21.8 million in the half-year, and pre-tax profits slipped 19 per cent to £3.72 million.

Despite this depressing scenario, the company has decided to hold its 10p interim pay-out and says it will maintain its full-year dividend of 27.5p.

Although costs have risen only 6.3 per cent since last year the group has to start attracting new business soon. The institutional figures look bad enough but the unit trust side, where funds have shrunk by 35 per cent to £1.35 billion in the past year, is worse. There is no secret to attracting new funds; it lies in strong distribution and above average performance. Henderson presently seems to have neither.

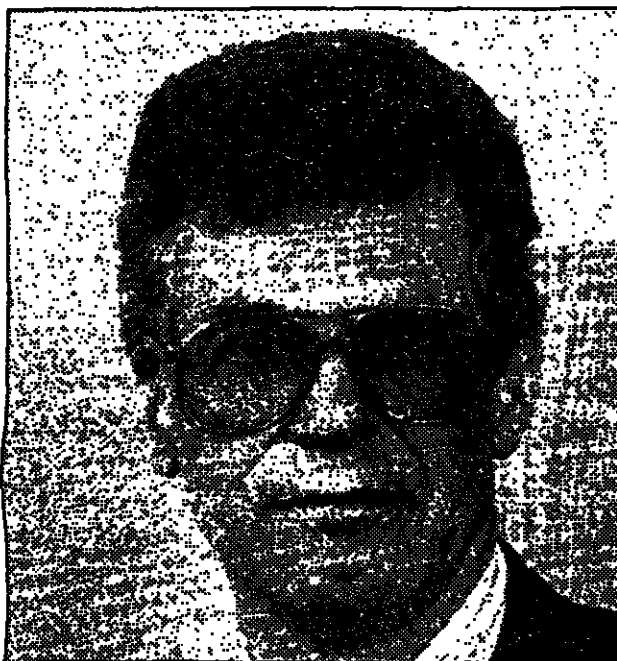
The group would have many attractions to a potential buyer. It has a reasonable brand name, established funds, and £55 million in cash, half its capitalisation. But 32 per cent of Henderson's shares are held by its four founding investment trusts, so the group looks unlikely to succumb to a hostile offer.

The £900,000 rates settlement with Hackney Council will provide a welcome boost to the group's second-half earnings. But profits will still be hard-pressed to reach £16.5 million. On a share price of 495p, the shares are on a p/e ratio of 10. Only optimists need apply.

GEI

MENTION steel or engineering shares these days and the average fund manager is likely to reach for a stiff drink. But GEI International, which specialises in packaging machinery and special steels is

Vital secret of success eludes Henderson



Dividend increase: Richard Biffa, chairman of Rechem

still doggedly expanding. The growth may be slow but it is in stark contrast to the rest of the sector, where falling profits are the rule these days.

Michael Blackburn, chairman, minces no words when it comes to the present pressure on margins. But GEI is winning orders against ferocious competition and order books are higher than they were 12 months ago. While turnover in the half-year to end September rose 7 per cent to £36 million, pre-tax profits advanced only 5 per cent to £3.1 million. Earnings per share also grew 5 per cent to 5.24p.

GEI has adopted the strategy of concentrating its efforts to grow the business by building its packaging machinery interests especially in Belgium, a centre for the chocolate confectionery trade. The aim was to use the cash generated by the steel division to fund growth. In the first half of this year special steels encountered tough trading but managed to lift its profits.

This is more than could be said of the core packaging operations, which were hit by the timing of its deliveries. But processing machinery staged a recovery.

GEI is giving no indications of prospects for the second-half save that it sees many uncertainties in the economic climate. Analysts reckon that a further rise in profits to £3 million is likely this year compared with the £7.3 million recorded in the 12 months ended March 1990.

At 96p the shares have been pulled down with the sector and sell on a prospective p/e ratio of 6.8 times. That makes them of some interest to smaller funds or private investors. For a further 5 per cent rise in the total dividend to 7.6p following the 5 per cent increase in interim payment to 2.47p per share puts GEI on a prospective yield of 10.6 per cent.

Rechem

IT IS an act of faith to invest in Britain's waste disposal sector, which is susceptible to major upsets because of technical difficulties and public hostility to the industry.

But toxic waste is an integral part of modern life and must be disposed of safely. It is also a fact that it can be a highly profitable business for a company prepared to take the risk.

Rechem, whose chairman is Richard Biffa, made headlines last year when dockers refused to handle ships importing waste for disposal at its incinerators at Pontypool and Fawley, and the company — and investors — are fully aware that detractors are always ready to pounce.

Rechem has countered protests by investing £8 million in a new incinerator at Fawley and drawing up plans for a plant in Italy, to dispose of waste which may otherwise have been brought to the UK for disposal. Interim results, showing taxable profits down from £4.7 million to £4 million and earnings from 11.4p a share to 10.4p, reflect the disruption caused by bringing new plant on stream.

But the dividend has been increased by 1p to 4.5p and forecasts are being maintained at £11.5 million before tax for the full year, putting the shares, at 495p, on a prospective p/e of 17. No reason to chase the shares higher but they are a firm long-term hold.

Short-termism case against industry

Short-termism on Trial, by Paul Marsh, London Business School. Commissioned by the Institutional Fund Managers Association, Park House, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 2JP. £10.

BEFORE the latest Confederation of British Industry talk-in on short-termism in the City becomes too involved in hacking across well-beaten paths, it should take time to read a new appraisal from Paul Marsh of the London Business School.

Professor Marsh turns the debate on its head by suggesting that if scapegoats for lower levels of investment in British industry are to be sought, then the spotlight might equally well be turned on short-termist attitudes of industrial managers as much as those of the City.

The professor has spent much of his academic career researching aspects of financial markets, investment management and corporate finance and he finds little evidence that binds the decisions of professional investors to the perceived problem of lower investment in Britain and the United States than in Germany and Japan.

He provides strong arguments for saying that share prices do indeed attribute sizeable value to the longer-term aspects of a company's business, strategy and investment policies. Along the way,

he raises a much-neglected aspect of the debate, that the reasons behind relatively lower investment by Britain and the United States may be that fewer profitable (this emphasis) opportunities may be generated in those economies for a variety of financial, historical and cultural reasons.

It is timely that the debate move towards less sterner ground towards understanding the issues relating to Britain's long-term investment record.

Professor Marsh begins by shifting the accusations against fund managers from the familiar anecdotal level to something far more substantial. The complaints about callow, Porsche-driving yuppies who would sell their grandmother before breakfast should, if they are to be examined rigorously, be formulated as a challenge that the City misprices shares: that long-term factors are undervalued at the expense of immediate profits and dividend payments.

Thus stated, the proposition is difficult to prove. By way of example, ICI's share price last August stood at 905p, its earnings per share of 116p and dividends of 74p illustrate

that a great deal of the valuation hinges on expectations of dividend income.

Further analysis suggests that the implied assessment of investors was that, in the long run, ICI would produce divi-

dend increases at the rate of 13 per cent compound. All of the dividends expected over the next 10 years still account for only half ICI's share price.

The monograph looks at other factors, such as price/earnings ratios, and points out that high-growth industries, such as pharmaceuticals and telecommunications, attract high ratings while low-growth clearing bankers and metal batters are treated entirely differently by the market.

Professor Marsh refrains from dogma here but says prima facie there is little to suggest that in its pricing the stock exchange does not appear to over-emphasise the short term.

If short-termism is defined as the failure to undertake profitable long-term investments, then the perpetrators are not investment managers, but industrial managers. The levers with power to maximise short-term profits, cutting investments, reducing operating costs or boosting revenues all lie in the control of the company executive.

If the charge is that such actions are forced by the City, the accusers must show how such duress operates.

Professor Marsh contends that such allegations tend to boil down to criticism of shareholders during contested bids.

He argues that there is little evidence that well-managed long-termist companies head

the list of victims. If anything, research indicates that poor long-term performance is far more likely to attract predators.

If investment decisions are squarely the province of the company itself, it is worth noting that the decision-makers may well be influenced by many factors which tend to produce a short-termist view independently of any spur from financial markets.

In Britain and the United States, remuneration and reward packages are frequently linked to short-term changes in earnings or share prices, which may produce direct conflicts between company and manager. Contrast this with the lifetime employment offered by Japanese firms.

Professor Marsh also examines the problems arising from adversarial relationships between head office and operating divisions during capital budgeting and sees advantages in the Japanese way of handling such matters.

In the final analysis however he concludes that Britain's investment spending has been characterised by a lack of profitable opportunity due among other things to supply-side restrictions throughout the economy.

This is surely where the CBI's debate should begin and end.

JOHN BELL
City Editor

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fit to drop BBC's offer

JIM Henderson, fitness-mad oil analyst at BZW, has turned down a chance to break into the big time on television. Henderson, who regularly tries to persuade workmates to tackle the London marathon, was volunteered by colleagues for a BBC television documentary on exercise addiction. Entitled *Fit To Drop*, the documentary, shown last week, featured addicts who feel they must spend every spare moment in a gymnasium and for whom press-ups and jogging have become a necessity. The interviewer was Dr Connie Chan, a psychologist and former addict who kicked the fitness habit and now runs an exercise dependency clinic. BBC researchers put out a request on Topic, the electronic stock exchange information system, for addicts, and wags at BZW could not resist putting Henderson's name forward. However, when approached, he courteously declined the invitation to appear. "They wouldn't believe me when I explained that it was a wind-up and I didn't really have a problem," says Henderson, who has just returned from his honeymoon. "It took me half-an-hour to get them off the telephone."

Fueling green war
A CONFLICT of interest looms for Burmah Castrol, which is this week expected to

publish the offer document outlining its £237 million takeover bid for Foseco. Should Burmah eventually win, one of the first tasks confronting Lawrence Uggah, the chairman and chief executive, will be to decide the fate of a Foseco subsidiary which may sit uneasily alongside Burmah's existing business. Midland Refineries, based in Birmingham, is one of Britain's leading suppliers of recycled lubricants, which apparently offer the same performance characteristics as the original oil including, presumably, Castrol. Burmah has minor interests in recycling, but may feel less than anxious to retain a business which boasts that its recycled products can achieve savings of up to 50 per cent on an average barrel of lubricating oil. While Burmah has good reason to fear war in the Gulf

and high oil prices, Midland Refineries is gleeful at the prospect of British industry taking a much closer look at its fuel bill. It has even circulated a *Gulf Crisis* leaflet, outlining the cost advantages of recycled oil and urging potential customers to "let us help you fight the battle in the market place."

Coffee campaign

THE Finnish obsession with freshly ground coffee — they drink 11 kilos each every year to the two kilos consumed by Britons — may be about to leave its mark on the British food industry. For George Docker, managing director of the British arm of Paulig, the largest coffee producer in Finland, has launched a campaign to create a single food standard. Docker, who will be addressing a London conference today, is rallying to the support of ISO 9000, a less than memorable standard which is supposed to ensure that the coffee you are served will always be of good quality. Docker's campaign should be good news for customers of Trusthouse Forte, which relies on Paulig for 80 per cent of its ground and roast coffee.

Avoiding fowl play

A HINT of the old trading floor humour showed itself in the heights of the International Stock Exchange tower yesterday, as the City welcomed its latest entrant, CP Pokphand, the Thai-run, Hong Kong-quoted chicken

farmer and motor cycle maker, presented Ian Selcher, the deputy chairman of the ISE, with a 6-inch high gift horse at yesterday's ceremony. Such an exchange of gifts has become a custom since Big Bang deprived directors of companies seeking a listing in London the privilege of a visit to the trading floor. In its place, overseas companies are now given a clock made from the marble of the old exchange floor. But exchange staff discovered that in Chinese superstition, the gift of a clock is often associated with death. So, Sumit Jiaravanon, the president of CP Pokphand, was presented with a plain piece of marble.

The sound of £5m

THE Royal Opera House at Covent Garden played host to an unusual mixture of celebrities on Friday, the first night of *The Barber of Seville*. Gazing down from a private box was Alistair Morison, of Eurotunnel, no doubt musing over prospects for his £566 million rights issue. In the stalls below was Robert Maxwell, putting on a brave face despite news that Rupert Murdoch had triumphed in the battle between Sky and BS8. Meanwhile, sponsoring the evening opera, at a cost of £17,500, was newly merged Mitsui Taiyō Kobe Bank. "We hope to attract £5 million in sponsorship this year," says Felicity Clark, director of the Royal Opera House Trust.

CAROL LEONARD

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THE TIMES

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7 1990

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Advance prolonged

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end November 16. Contango day November 19. Settlement day November 26.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES PAGE 24)

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Gr Portland	Property	
2	Customer	Industrials E-K	
3	LWT CP	Leisure	
4	Warner	Property	
5	Wimpey (a)	Building Roads	
6	Kwik Save	Food	
7	Flora Mac	Industrials L-R	
8	East Dairy	Leisure	
9	South West	Water	
10	Bellway	Building Roads	
11	General Nat	Banks Discount	
12	Home Counties	Newspapers Pub	
13	Ryl Bk Scot (a)	Banks Discount	
14	Burdens (a)	Banks Discount	
15	Meyer Int	Building Roads	
16	Scott Mid	Property	
17	Pikington (a)	Industrials L-R	
18	Utd Account (a)	Food	
19	RHM (a)	Electricals	
20	Cable Wireless (a)	Building Roads	
21	Blackley Gp	Leisure	
22	STC (a)	Electricals	
23	Broken Hill	Industrials A-D	
24	Atwoods	Building Roads	
25	Mansfield	Breweries	
26	Spyglass	Property	
27	Leig (a)	Industrials A-D	
28	Cherwell Com	Property	
29	MEPC (a)	Property	
30	Computer People	Property	
31	Graydon	Water	
32	Yorkshire Water	Water	
33	Midland (a)	Banks Discount	
34	Logica	Electricals	
35	Northumbrian	Water	
36	Land Sec (a)	Property	
37	Southern Prop	Property	
38	BTR (a)	Industrials A-D	
39	Wheaton	Industrials A-D	
40	Boots (a)	Industrials L-R	
41	Ranarom	Industrials S-Z	
42	Seacourt	Industrials S-Z	
43	Booker	Food	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend				
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.				
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
100	100	100	100	100	100

SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
100	100	100	100	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS				
100	100	100	100	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS				
100	100	100	100	100

UNDATED				
100	100	100	100	100

INDEX-LINKED				
100	100	100	100	100

BANKS, DISCOUNT, NP				
100	100	100	100	100

BREWERIES				
100	100	100	100	100

BUILDING, ROADS				
100	100	100	100	100

FINANCE, LAND				
100	100	100	100	100

FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
100	100	100	100	100

FOODS				
100	100	100	100	100

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS				
100	100	100	100	100

DRAPERY, STORES				
100	100	100	100	100

HOTELS, CATERERS				
100	100	100	100	100

INDUSTRIALS A-D				
100	100	100	100	100

E-K				
100	100	100	100	100

L-R				
100	100	100	100	100

S-Z				
100	100	100	100	100

OILS, GAS				
100	100	100	100	100

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS				
100	100	100	100	100

TEXTILES				
100	100	100	100	100

SHOES, LEATHER				
100	100	100	100	100

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT				
100	100	100	100	100

TRANSPORT				
100	100	100	100	100

OVERSEAS TRADERS				
100	100	100	100	100

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING				
100	100	100	100	100

LEISURE				
100	100	100	100	100

MINING				
100	100	100	100	100

PROPERTY				
100	100	100	100	100

TOBACCO				
100	100	100	100	100

WATER				
100	100	100	100	100

ELECTRICALS				
100	100	100	100	100

INSURANCE				
100	100	100	100	100

Portfolio

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He added "I have five shares in every company on this page. The game of being a world leader warning that such a move would not be possible until the controlled and corporate profits of individual companies were reduced to no more than 2 per cent a year."

ships for ig 'could dry costs'

It is down to us to ensure that the shipbuilding industry is not a victim of the current economic climate. The industry is a key part of the economy and it is our duty to ensure that it is not a victim of the current economic climate. The industry is a key part of the economy and it is our duty to ensure that it is not a victim of the current economic climate.

UNLISTED SECURITIES	FOREIGN EXCHANGES
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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

Platinum pm fbc: \$426.00 (\$216.00)
 Palladium pm fbc: \$84.75 (\$54.00)
 Spot Silver \$4.03 (\$4.01) 1000

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

... ..

British Gas is building an international business, with a turnover of millions of pounds a year, selling its technology as far as China and the United States

A diagram of the pipelines in the North Sea, looking like the map of the London Underground system, illustrates the success of British Gas technology. Although the lines are owned by the big oil companies and most carry gas ashore for the British Gas grid, their maintenance needs are highlighted by the equipment developed and used by BG.

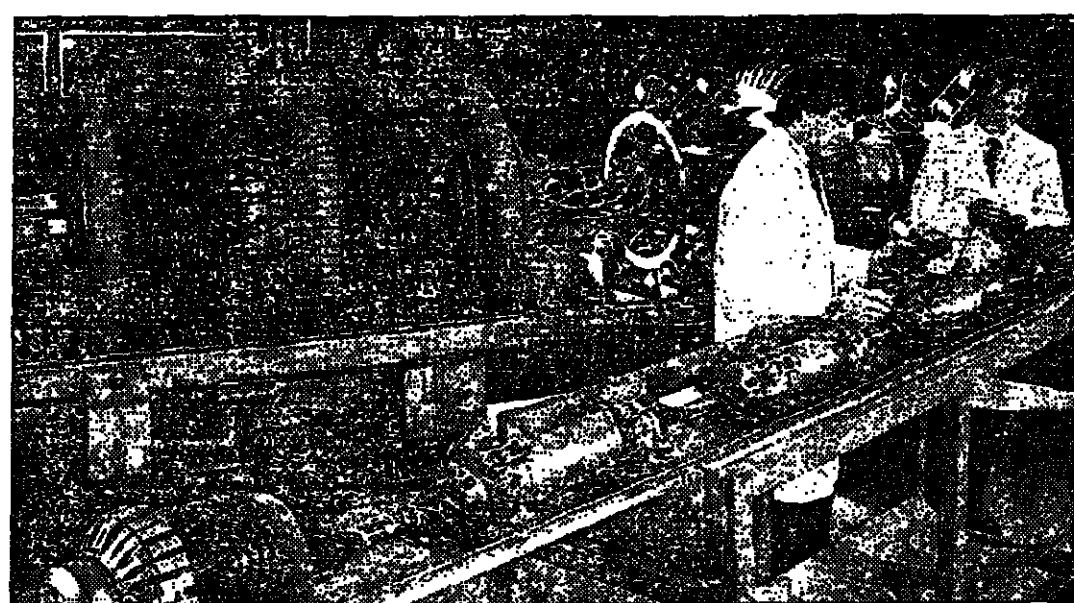
The "intelligent pig", an ingenious device that travels along the pipeline seeking out faults and was developed by British Gas, has helped to avoid pipeline fractures and allowed the oil companies to maximise flows from various sections of pipeline by recommending subtle modifications.

The pig travels along the pipeline from the production platform to the shore, handling terminal logging conditions in every inch of the pipe. Its sophisticated x-ray, ultrasonic and measuring devices then tell engineers which stretches of pipe require replacement or repair. The technique saves millions of pounds.

British Gas has also developed a labour-saving way of digging trenches for pipelines in urban areas that uses a device called a "mole", so that disruption to streets and pavements is kept to a minimum. These techniques will also be used by the other utilities as environmental pressure on them increases and roadwork disruptions are discouraged.

To continue the pace of such developments, British Gas is building a new research centre at Loughborough, Leicestershire, close to the university campus.

Robert Evans, the British Gas chairman, says: "Engineering, industrial innovation and the research and development which supports them, are not abstract matters that can be conveniently ignored. They are critical to the strength of Britain's industry and must receive the highest priority if the UK industrial decline is to be reversed. The engineering in-



Sniffing out the faults: the thin and fat version of the "pig" which checks the inside of pipelines

Pig and mole bring home the bacon

Industry has always been the springboard for economic revival. Although investment in service industries is important, it will not provide the long-term stable growth so vital for our nation's future prosperity.

"The present position of western nations as industrial leaders stems from their investment in engineering and scientific education. Unfortunately, Britain appears to be no longer keeping up with its competitors' investment in those areas.

"To take one example, Japan produces ten times as many

engineers as we do in the UK. The result of this can be strikingly demonstrated by comparing the UK export performance in manufactured goods with those of Japan.

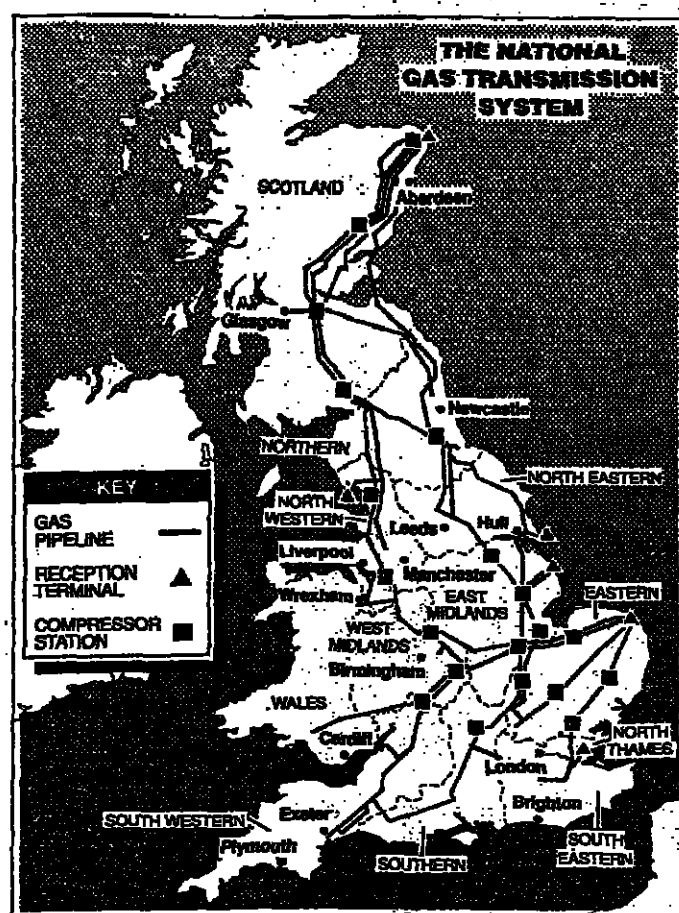
"If Britain is to continue to prosper, it must produce goods that other countries want to buy but find it difficult to make themselves. This implies innovation and engineering expertise. But both of these need a sound research and development bedrock.

"The high standard of British Gas research and development

and of the engineering it supports is of value not just to the UK, but is widely recognised among energy industries throughout the world.

"This is why we are on our way to building an international business, with a turnover of millions of pounds a year, based on selling our technology and our expertise."

An example of this is that new work by two British Gas engineers, Kevin Pomfret and John Waddington, from the Midlands Research Station (MRS), at Solihull, Birmingham, has won the 1990 Royal Society ESO Energy Award in recognition of work they



have carried out in improving the efficiency and performance of the metal reheating furnaces in industry. The two men will be presented with the award by the Royal Society this month for the development and exploitation of gas-fired rapid heating furnaces.

Before the development of the rapid heating technique, the design of fuel-fired furnaces for reheating stock in metal heating had changed little in the past 100 years or so.

Traditional furnaces are large box-like structures lined with refractory materials. They operate

by firing a stream of hot gases into the chamber, raising the temperature up to 1,350°C. Steel is heated by radiation from the hot refractory walls and furnace gases. Many of these existing furnaces have a low thermal efficiency and correspondingly long heating-up times, leading to metal loss and metallurgical deterioration.

Introduction of the rapid heater has brought great benefits. Instead of wasting heat in large furnace chambers, these compact units make fuel savings of up to 65 per cent. Capital and running costs have been reduced. Start-up time takes minutes rather than hours and the sensitive responses to changes in heat input provide a more efficient control of the working temperature and produce a better quality of metal.

The research and development work at MRS has involved computer modelling, laboratory experiments and trials of prototype rapid heating furnaces. This has resulted in design procedures that have enabled licenses to specify furnaces individually to suit a wide variety of metal reheating processes.

Independent licensees have sold more than 300 units. It is estimated that the energy savings, dating from the first commercial installation, are more than 18 million tonnes, equal to the amount of gas used each year by a city about the size of Worcester.

The leading British Gas licensee for these heaters, Fairbank Brerley, of Bingley, Yorkshire, has been awarded the Queen's Award for Export. In addition to supplying rapid heating furnaces to British industry, Fairbank Brerley has exported its product to 19 countries, including China and the United States.

The US features prominently in the export market for rapid heaters. One company, Triangle Auto Spring of Tennessee, has converted almost its entire spring production to the new technology.

As the wall came tumbling down the gasmen moved in

Only a few days after German reunification, the citizens of the former East Berlin were treated to a sight we in Britain know well. The gasmen arrived and dug up the street.

The German government highlighted the international complexity of British Gas by asking it to help to repair the local gas network in the east, which had been neglected.

British Gas is now doing renewal work in Berlin and Leipzig. In Berlin six engineers are repairing 420 metres of cast-iron pipe with new polyethylene piping. This involves feeding new flexible piping into the old pipes, avoiding the need for large-scale excavations and interruptions to supply. If pipes need to be joined, even digging can be avoided by the use of electrofusion coupling.

Repairable pipes are sealed by anaerobic spraying. In Leipzig, engineers are anaerobically sealing piping and replacing cast-iron pipes with polyethylene ones.

British Gas is a partner in distribution projects in Spain, Italy, Canada and Indonesia. The company is likely to be

Now Britain's experts dig up the roads in Berlin



George Langshaw: skills chosen to convert Lisbon's entire network to natural gas later this decade, when liquefied gas arrives from Nigeria, and it recently converted the distribution network in Ankara, Turkey, to natural gas.

Although these profitable enterprises give British Gas a high profile, the company's main overseas activities take it into the big league of international oil groups through its Global Gas division.

George Langshaw, the man-

aging director of Global Gas, says: "Global Gas was formed after an intensive study of the British Gas diversification strategy. This study focused on a limited range of industries where we might consider investment. It is the only company with the necessary skills not only to find and produce natural gas but, more importantly, to develop the necessary markets.

"The decision to move forward in this way has taken place against the background where natural gas is now seen more and more as the fuel of choice around the world. The Gulf dispute and the worry over oil supplies is likely to reinforce this view.

"My main objective in Global Gas is to develop a profitable gas business in a range of countries. We studied world gas resources and markets, natural gas resources, the production level, the growth potential and the likelihood of early opportunities for profitable investment."

As a result, British Gas targeted Canada, the United States, several countries in western and eastern Europe.

The prospect of the passing of the electricity industry into the private sector in the coming months has, if anything, created something of a bonanza for British Gas. The City's view that nuclear power in its present shape is unacceptable to the public, and environmental concerns about the burning of coal have handed British Gas a huge new market for power generation, which it has grabbed with both hands.

During the year-long miners' strike in the mid Eighties, gas was used to produce power at the Hams Hall power station, near Birmingham.

The old Central Electricity Generating Board had a network of gas-turbine power stations around the country that could be used to provide sudden surges of power to meet peak demand.

The Hams Hall power station, however, was not designed to use the newest and most efficient gas-burning technology, and the network of gas-turbine stations was never an economic proposition because of the turbines, which are fairly fuel-inefficient.

The new enthusiasm for building efficient and clean gas-fired power stations means that, even if British Gas does not supply the gas, it will probably be able to offer its pipelines for transporting

Sell-off sparks a bonanza

the gas under common-carrier arrangements.

By the end of the decade, an estimated 200 million therms of gas a year will be used for power generation, according to British Gas calculations. This is equivalent to about 8 per cent of the amount used by the industrial consumers who buy their gas on contract.

The reasons for this, says Robert Evans, the British Gas chairman, include the new availability of supplies as well as the environmental arguments for the use of gas rather than oil or coal.

Another factor is the higher efficiency that can be achieved by gas-fired power stations, especially the new combined-cycle power stations, in which exhaust heat from gas turbines is used in a steam-raising cycle to drive steam turbines. These turbines produce about half as much power as the original gas turbines.

Using this system, overall efficiency of 50 per cent can be achieved against the 36 per cent achieved by the best

Ways of keeping an eye on the bills

New ideas to help consumers cut costs

NEXT spring, British Gas will install 200 test meters in selected homes as part of the move toward meters which can be read remotely and give the customer details of what is being spent on gas.

By being able to monitor spending on gas more closely, customers will be able to make sure they use gas effectively and reduce wastage.

Two companies, FMI, a subsidiary of Siemens based at Oldham, Greater Manchester, and Gill Electronics R&D, of Lymington, Hampshire, have produced prototype meters no larger than a house brick. They are powered by long-life batteries.

British Gas believes the development of competition in the supply side of the business will benefit it by creating a bigger market as a whole for gas and making more industries aware of the advantages of gas as a fuel. The company introduced a scale of charges in October for companies that want to use its pipeline system for transporting their gas to their own plants or for sale to third parties.

Ways of keeping an eye on the bills

New ideas to help consumers cut costs

The Gas Consumers Council, however, hopes a new device will help to curb any shocks when the bills arrive.

A small, cardboard calculator, christened the "meter beater", will convert the customer's meter reading into gas charges. Meter beaters are available free from Gas Consumers Council offices.

At present, the meter reader calls at the property and notes the amount of cubic feet used. Then a computer at the British Gas office calculates what the customer owes in pounds and pence. The meter beater can do this arithmetic instantly for you at home.

"I think meters are easy for the gas man to read, but they are no use at all to the person who wants to know how much the gas actually costs," Ian Powe, the director of the Gas Consumers Council, says.

"All you have to do is read the meter and make a note of the figure. Then, at a later date, take another reading and subtract your first reading from the second. The meter beater does the rest - converting that figure into money and adding on the standing charge, so you know exactly what the bill would be if it arrived on the doorstep the next day."

The gas meter is aimed particularly at those with tight budgets and those who have difficulty with debts. It should also prove useful for the growing number of people concerned about energy efficiency in their homes, or for those who want to monitor how much a new appliance is adding to their expenses.

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City warms to the power of gas

Out of a Victorian building comes heat and light

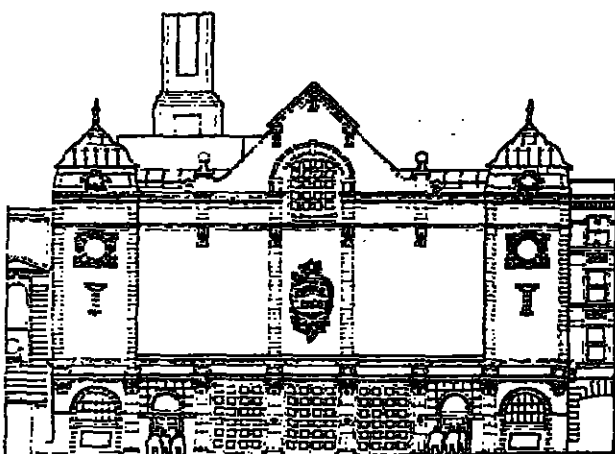
A SIGNIFICANT move into the power business could mean that the stockbrokers who deal every day in British Gas shares will have their offices heated and lit by power produced from gas generated by British Gas.

A new company, Citigen, has been formed by British Gas and Utilicom Holdings to build and operate large-scale combined heat and power plants (CHP) in areas where the heat produced can readily be sold to commercial users.

The first project by the new company will be in the City of London. Power will be produced from a site in Charterhouse Street, where once there was a small power station. The heat produced will be used in buildings such as the Guildhall and the Barbican.

The plant will be housed in the restored Victorian cold storage building, part of the Smithfield meat market. The Corporation of London looked into CHP in June 1989 and began a tender process to select a suitable company to develop and manage the scheme. The intention is that the corporation as the first customer will provide the initial energy demand to get the project off the ground and, as the local authority, will be making information available and allowing the use of its tunnels and subways, all of which are essential to a CHP company. Later Citigen will expand its operations to attract other City customers.

George Langshaw, the managing director of Global Gas, the division which develops world markets for British Gas, says: "CHP represents the most efficient form of total



Restored: the building that will house the power plant

energy delivery available. Citigen will harness British Gas's wealth of experience in the energy business and Utilicom's expertise.

"Natural gas is virtually free of sulphur and other pollutants that contribute to acid rain. The combustion of any fossil fuel generates carbon dioxide, now considered a cause of global warming. Burning gas produces less carbon dioxide than oil or coal."

Charles Maillard, a director of Utilicom, says: "With the growing awareness of the need for energy efficiency, environmental protection and the diverse range of applications available, the potential for CHP is enormous."

While the City CHP scheme will be a working example of the spectacular economies such a scheme can achieve on small sites, British Gas is also involved with Enron Corp in the United States to build one of the world's biggest CHP plants on Teesside, capable of producing 1,725 megawatts of power from April 1993. The heat produced will also be used by ICI, which is providing the site for the plant at its Wilton chemical plant.

Four of the regional electricity companies, Midlands Electricity, Northern Electric, South Wales Electricity and

South Western Electricity, will take a 50 per cent stake in the £600 million project and will contract to take power for the first 15 years of the plant's life. ICI will take 257 megawatts of power and use the heat produced to raise steam for its process plant at Teesside.

The plant will still be producing enough power to be able to supply 168 megawatts a day for the national power pool, to be sold every day by the National Grid company.

Enron will retain the other 50 per cent stake in the plant and intends eventually to sell off 10 per cent to ICI. However, a joint company formed by British Gas, Amoco and Amerasia Hess will provide three million therms of gas every day for the plant from new fields to be developed in the central North Sea.

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Switching on to a full power service

Always a strong company, British Gas, responsible now to private investors, plans further growth

British Gas in its present form was born only four years ago, but it was never a struggling infant. It started life as a mature and forceful company, which has made it an object of envy as well as a target for criticism for being too big and able to bully others.

The truth is, says the company, that it has had to fight for everything it has earned in the past four years, as competition has increased and the regulatory pressure on it has stepped up. It has also had to answer to the shareholders it acquired when it was privatised in 1986, as well as its 17 million customers.

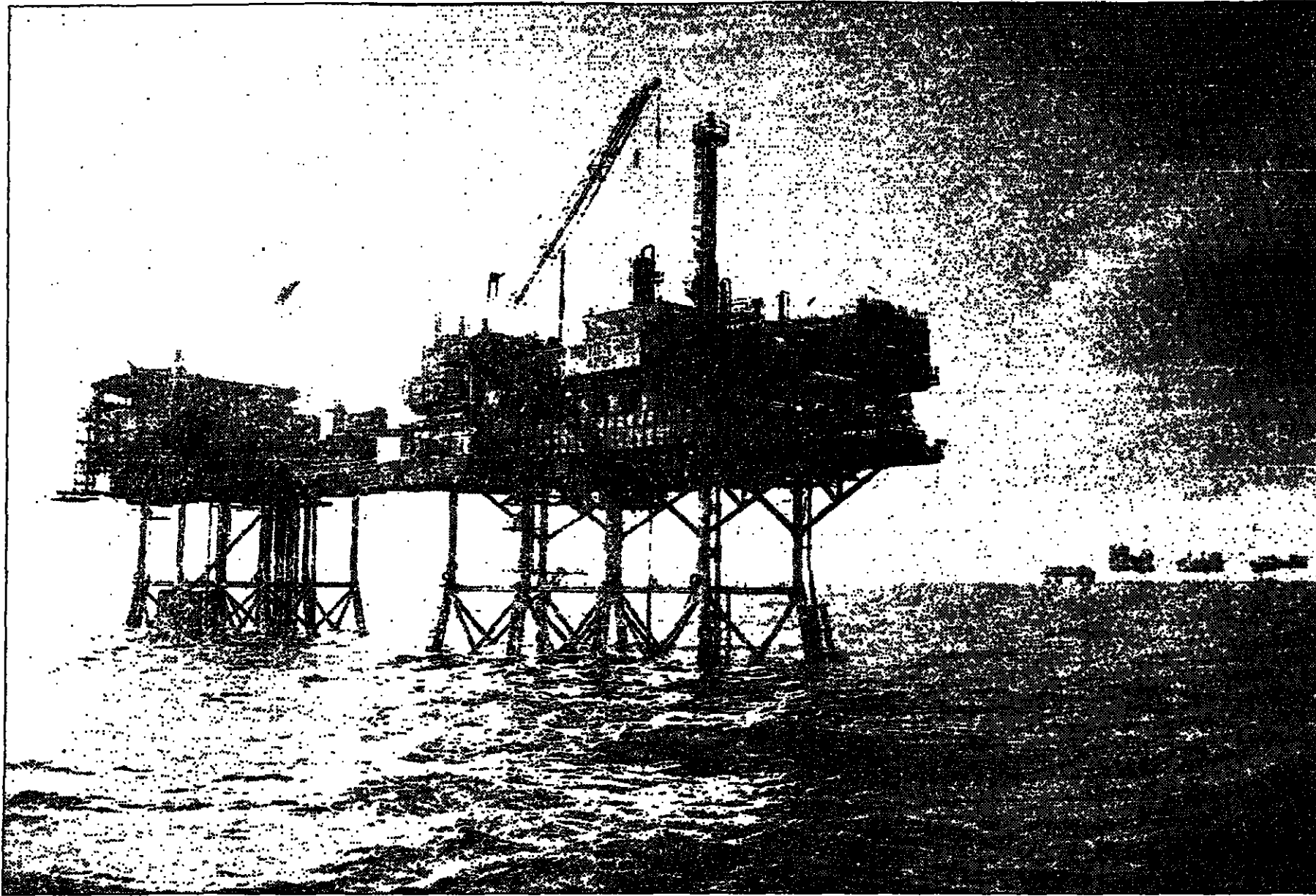
British Gas has emerged as one of the world's biggest energy companies, with a substantial cash flow, huge assets and a sound customer base, even though it has been fighting a running battle with the electricity supply industry for market share.

Robert Evans, the chairman of British Gas, says: "This is a time of enormous change for BG as it evolves from the monopoly gas supplier of the past into one of a number of players in the competitive British gas market of today and into the future."

Apart from its offshore assets and overseas holdings, British Gas operates more than 155,000 miles of pipelines in the UK, 11,000 miles of them high-pressure mains, which bring gas from the North Sea to distribution points around the country. These high-pressure mains have a current replacement value of £17 billion. The smaller transmission system, which takes gas into the home and factory, has a value of £3 billion.

Mr Evans says: "A vital part of our continuing work as a company is to keep these assets in a safe and usable condition. We have traditionally given, and will continue to give, a high priority to the replacement programme for mains and service pipes so that the system operates efficiently, with safety a paramount consideration."

"The role of the pipeline system is being redefined. From being dedicated almost solely to the conveyance of gas for BG cus-



Going with the flow: the Rough gas field in the North Sea is in effect an offshore gasholder, storing gas in summer when demand is low, ready for release in winter

tomers, the competition, which is being introduced into the non-tariff market sectors, will lead to a changed role."

However, although the right of third parties to have access to the British Gas pipeline system was granted in 1982, few companies were prepared to seek access until this year.

Mr Evans says: "I believe that a significant factor in the lack of development of competition was that the majority of gas producers, who might have considered direct sales into the industrial market, were really not interested at that time. Their own economic interests were met by negotiating

long-term gas supply agreements with BG. We, in turn, were ready to sign up the supply deals which we required to fulfil our obligations to the markets for gas, in both domestic and industrial applications."

"Under these agreements, the risk associated with offshore investment in the development of the reserves was taken by the gas producers, while all the marketing risk associated with the distribution of the gas was taken by BG."

"Alongside the development of a regime designed to encourage competition, the other major factor which is beginning to make an impact on the thinking of gas

producers, and therefore the future shape of the British gas industry, is the privatisation of the electricity industry."

"There has been a reluctance to encourage the use of natural gas, a premium fuel, for power generation. In Britain, this was reflected in the market-related pricing of the fuel that followed the oil price upwards in the Seventies, making its widespread use in power stations uneconomic in competition with coal."

"Today, there appears to be a surplus of gas available for delivery into Britain, and the price is making electricity generation a more attractive proposition."

Gas-fired power generation is also attractive for environmental reasons, but world gas reserves are not spread evenly. The Soviet Union accounts for 37.5 per cent of the world's production. The Middle East has 31 per cent of reserves, yet accounts for only 5 per cent of production.

"Development in these two areas will be particularly important for the European gas market," Mr Evans says.

The company still expects that the market will be stimulated and strengthened by its participation in launching new power-generation schemes. Mr Evans says large-scale power-generation op-

portunities in Britain seem endless. "BG should seek opportunities in the UK and throughout the world," he adds. "Our resources and expertise will help to develop successful schemes and, of course, in the process create profits for BG shareholders. BG intends to become proficient in handling all aspects of the power market. In some cases, we will supply only gas, but in others we may be able to provide a complete service to include design, construction and operation of power stations."

The best investment in the electricity industry of the future, therefore, might well be to buy shares in British Gas.

Softly software business

Link-up to an expert systems company

A company the size of British Gas will inevitably add businesses to its portfolio as it develops. The trick, if the mistakes of some of the big oil companies are to be avoided, is to choose only businesses that have a close link with the core of the company.

Such an investment has been the recent tie-in British Gas has made with SD-Scicon and Salford University Business Enterprises (Sube) to market industrial automation software, based on the most up-to-date artificial intelligence software.

A new company, Cogsys, in which British Gas will be the biggest shareholder, will market the new software, also called Cogsys. The aim is to capture a large share of the market for industrial plant-based computers that think for themselves, so-called expert systems. When installed in a manufacturing or process plant, a computer system built using Cogsys can help to monitor plant operations and provide advice on possible hazards or areas in which efficiency can be improved.

Thirty-seven of the largest companies in Britain and Europe helped to research and develop Cogsys under the umbrella of a co-operative club.

By using Cogsys automation, engineers can create industrial systems that will run large-scale manufacturing and process plant. The main benefits, according to Geoff Mortimer, a director of Cogsys and a member of Sube, will be greater plant efficiency and reduced or less skilled staffing requirements.

The software is already being used by British Gas and by CMB Packaging, formerly Metal Box, which were both members of the collaborative club that sponsored the development.

Dr Henry Stroud, the British Gas general manager responsible for technology development, says: "Our test sites for Cogsys have shown that artificial intelligence can be applied to the complex world of industrial automation and in a way that allows plant staff to be closely involved in their development."

"We expect Cogsys to make a valuable contribution to industrial efficiency and competitiveness."

A consumers' charter, offering quicker action on complaints, heralds the company's caring campaign

Last year British Gas ran its biggest and most successful consumer survey, asking all its customers what they liked and disliked about the service. The response, stimulated by a television advertising campaign, was impressive, and the lessons learnt have now been applied.

All British Gas staff have been given training in dealing with the public and customers can have a copy of the new consumers' charter.

The aim of the campaign, says Robert Evans, the chairman, is to ensure that all customers who have a complaint about the service receive a satisfactory explanation, backed with financial compensation in cases where they have suffered a loss of earnings or a loss of business because of a fault.

The company has also introduced a code of practice, which gives details of the special services available to older and disabled customers. The code aims to increase awareness of existing services and introduce improvements. The code is available from gas showrooms, home service departments and local offices. All employees have been sent a copy so that they are aware of the arrangements.

Together with three advice leaflets, the code has won the Plain English Campaign's "Crystal Award" for clarity.

One of the most significant developments outlined in the code is the introduction of a register of older and disabled customers, initially in Scot-

Old and disabled offered new deal

land, and throughout Britain by the autumn of 1991.

Registration is voluntary. Customers who want their special needs to be noted, and to be kept informed of any new services available, should contact their British Gas regional office.

Improvements, outlined in the new leaflets, "Advice for Older People" and "Advice for Disabled People", include an extension of the free gas safety checks scheme; free gas tap adapters, where possible, for people with hand disabilities or impaired sight; a three-monthly telephone call to blind customers with details of their account; and a free meter move for older and disabled customers whose payment meter is in an awkward position.

The leaflets also encourage customers to let British Gas know quickly if they are having difficulty paying their bills, so that suitable alternative payment arrangements can be agreed.

Safety do's and don'ts in the event of a gas leak are described in each leaflet.

The third leaflet, "Choosing and Using Your Gas Appliances", lists a number of



Robert Evans, chairman

appliance features, which older and disabled customers could find helpful. Energy efficiency is promoted with a series of tips.

British Gas also intends to extend and improve its services for older and disabled customers. The plan has been agreed with the Gas Consumers' Council and includes the nomination and training of at least one staff member in every gas showroom to help and advise old and disabled customers, further publicity and promotion of the special services available, and a review of information displays in showrooms.

In addition to its special services and publications for older and disabled customers, British Gas has revised its general advice leaflet, "How to Get Help if You Can't Pay Your Gas Bill". In most cases, the company will agree a realistic payment arrangement to clear the debt. The most important advice, British Gas says, is that people should not be afraid to contact the office if they need help.

By encouraging people to get in touch and discuss the problem, British Gas has been able to reduce the number of disconnections for debt from 60,000 three years ago to fewer than 20,000 last year.

About eight million old and disabled people could benefit from the company's new package of proposals, introduced after requests from the Gas Consumers' Council and the Office of Gas Supply, the watchdog for the industry.

Welcoming the new measures, James McKinnon, the watchdog's director-general, says: "It is my statutory duty to ensure that British Gas fulfils its commitment in this package to all eligible customers. I applaud the Gas

Consumers' Council for its initiative in developing a package of proposals. Together with the council, my staff will be monitoring implementation closely in the coming months to ensure nobody slips through the net."

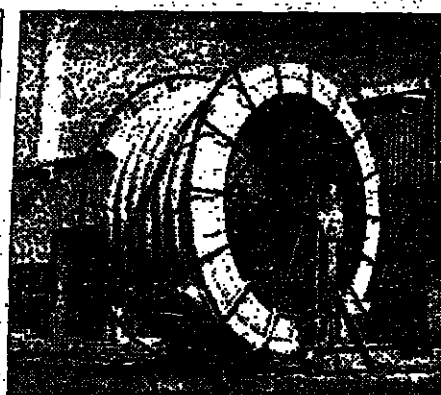
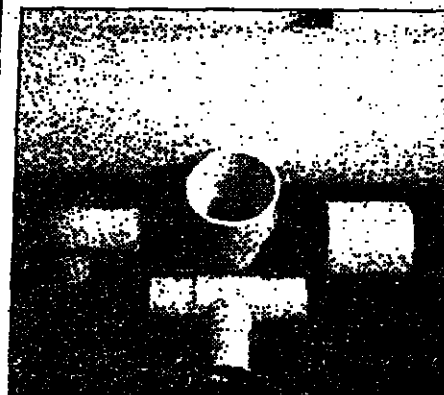
"My expectation is that by October next year British Gas will have in place a register of customers whose needs have been identified. Our ultimate goal, once the package has proved itself, is to have it incorporated in the company's Authorisation, the licence under which it operates as the sole gas supplier to domestic customers."

"It is more than a year since the Gas Consumers' Council published a review of British Gas services for older and disabled customers. The review contained an excellent package of proposals, which reflected the standards of service people in these vulnerable groups were entitled to expect."

"Given my responsibility under the Gas Act 1986 for protecting the interests of these groups, I had to ensure that they were not short-changed when the British Gas package was announced. I hope those benefiting will agree that the package was worth waiting for."

"In the meantime, I would urge all those for whom the package is designed to register with their local British Gas office. If they have any difficulty in registering, or subsequently with any aspect of the package, I should like to hear from them."

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Local groups get help for efficient schemes

AS WELL as developing new pipe-laying techniques which cause a minimum of environmental disruption and promoting clean-burning gas for power production, British Gas is spending £300,000 to set up the Grassroots Action Scheme (Gas) to help the environment.

The fund is designed to distribute up to £300,000 over three years among community groups, charities and schools. It has the backing of the environment secretary, Chris Patten, who recently unveiled the government's 350-point plan to make Britain cleaner and greener, and on the panel allocating the cash is Bill Oddie, the comedian, broadcaster and naturalist.

Mr Patten says: "This is a reminder of just how much is going on to help the environment. I am very keen that people recognise that we all have a part to play in making the country cleaner and greener."

"The leading role may have to be played by government but there is a part for everyone else as well."

Ivan Whitting, the British Gas director, says Gas is designed to put power into the hands of local groups.

He says: "British Gas has been very much involved with the environment for two decades. We set up an environmental assessment group as part of our engineering section

more than 20 years ago. We feel the world is catching up with us. We are pleased that the white paper which was published recently encourages community groups to take an interest in their local environment and we hope this scheme will help people in that direction."

Groups can apply for grants of up to £5,000 for schools or £10,000 for other organisations for projects including

the study of air pollution and water quality, or to fund the planting of trees. The group must put up a small proportion of the money before the project starts.

Mr Oddie says: "I suppose the first thing we are looking for is efficiency. That sounds a bit cold, but what we need is proof that people know how the money is going to be spent and how much things actually cost."

"I have been involved with several projects during the past few years and it is amazing how you get a little piece of paper saying: 'We have this brilliant idea to clear up a pond; can we have £5,000?' Then you get another letter saying: 'We have this brilliant idea to clear up a pond, can we have £50?' What we need to see is a budget."

He adds that enthusiasm comes free, but expert advice invariably has to be paid for.

"One of the most encouraging things about the past few years has been that action taken by highly organised, expert local groups has been successful in combating the spoiling of an area," Mr Oddie says.

"This is heartening because in the past people with money have been able to destroy things. Now the people with money, with right on their side, can also save those things."

TAKING THE MYSTIQUE OUT OF SHARE-DEALING

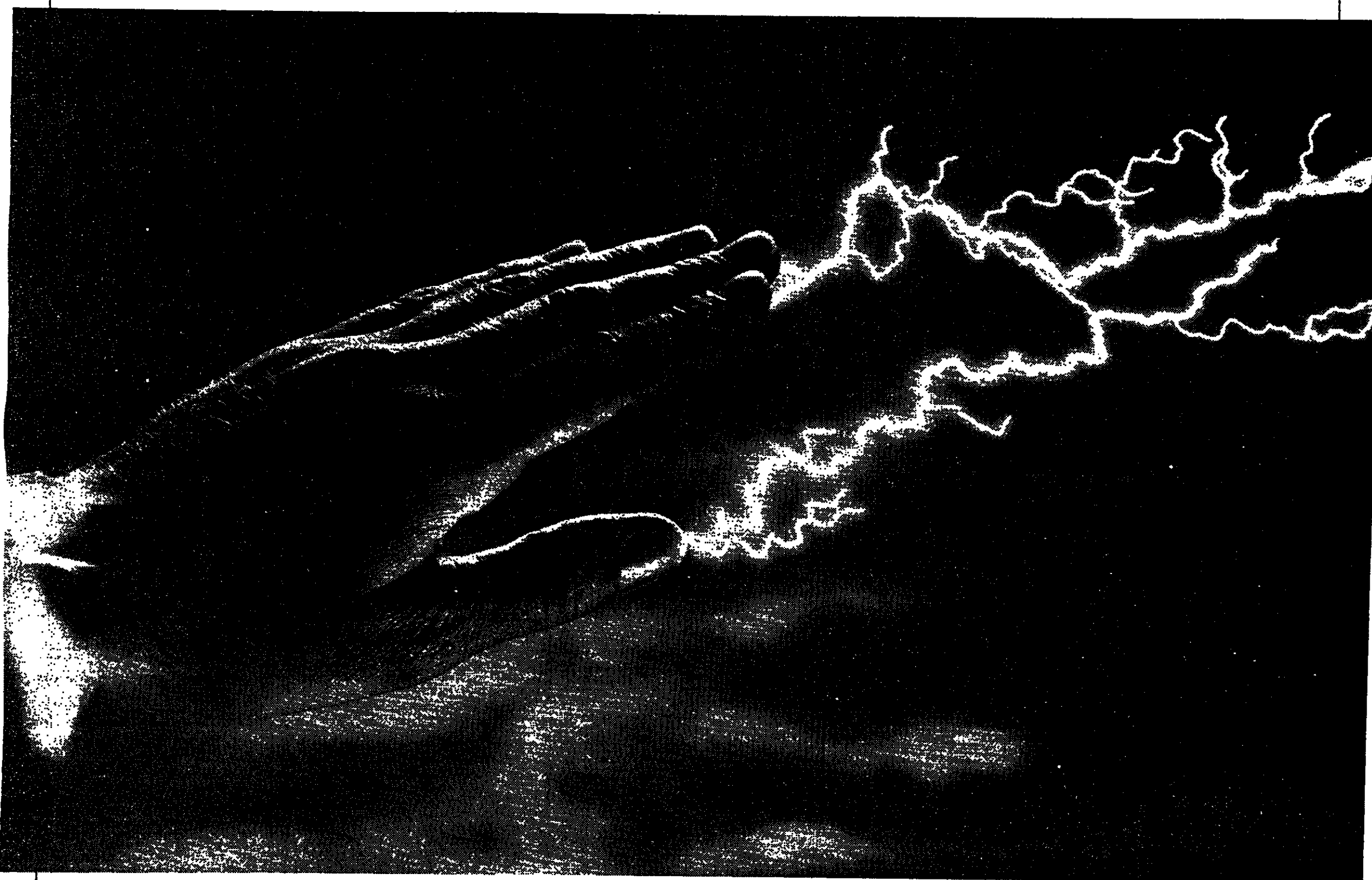
THE privatisation of British Gas created a new breed of small investor. Many of the two million shareholders on its register had never before invested in the stock market. For this reason, the company has produced a leaflet explaining share dealings, which it has sent out with final dividend payments this year.

The leaflet explains how NatWest Stockbrokers offer a postal service or a personal service in 270 branches of the

National Westminster Bank, using touch-screen computer terminals. John Jackson, the British Gas company secretary, says: "We think our shareholders ought to know how easy it is for them to buy or sell British Gas shares - whether or not they bank with NatWest, or even if they do not have a bank account."

"There is no mystique about the shareholding services and we hope the leaflet explains what people need to know."

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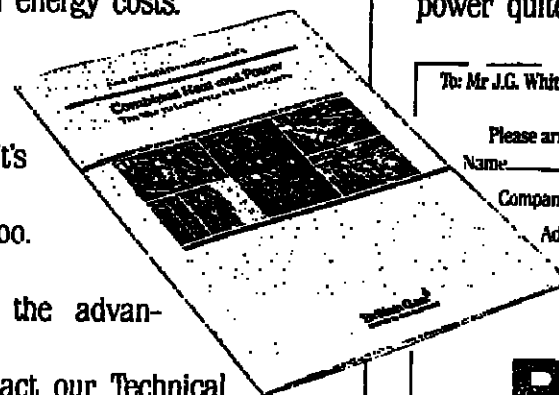
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British Gas

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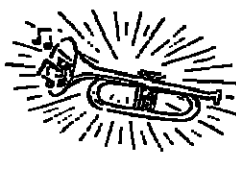
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Continued from page 35

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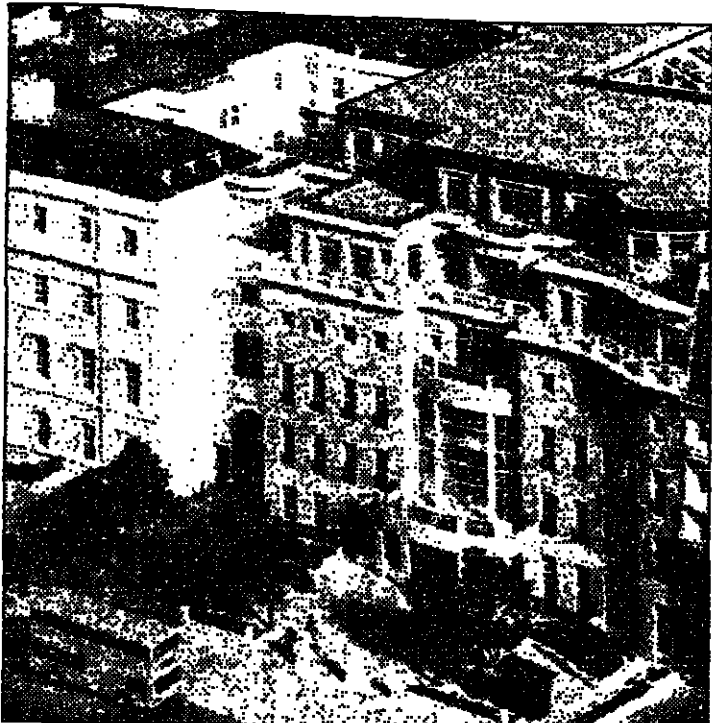
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Model of Knightsbridge project set round a spectacular atrium

Offices go up market

The site of One Knightsbridge, at Hyde Park Corner, overlooking the park and adjacent to the former St George's Hospital, is enviable, and is set to offer a new standard of office space — at a price.

The building has been designed by the Fitzroy Robinson Partnership using the traditional materials of Belgravia — brick, stone and wrought iron.

The 140,000 sq ft scheme, owned by Goodwill Nominees, an overseas investment holding company, is the only new development offering more than 100,000 sq ft in the central West

End area of London and claims to provide the highest technical specifications for the office space, which is set round a spectacular atrium running the length of the building.

One Knightsbridge is scheduled for completion next spring, while the former hospital, undergoing restoration and refurbishment, is due to open as a five-star hotel in the summer.

Richard Ellis, project manager and letting agent for One Knightsbridge, says the building could be let either in floors or as an entire building, and expects a rent of more than £70 per sq ft.

Town and city centres are facing increased competition from out-of-town shopping complexes, which could threaten their revival and even survival, the Oxford Retail Group concludes in report on the market as it struggles in the wake of the 1980s boom.

This is one of the key messages from *Retailing Issues for Development Plans*, published by the group, which includes retailers, investors and agents, and was set up in 1987 to consider the issues of planning and development in the sector.

The report says changed economic and development conditions from those of the late 1980s will mean substantially lower consumer spending and retail investment and much greater selectivity in the funding of schemes.

Although the consumer will have considerable choice in where to shop, "the increased competition between shopping centres, together with the downturn in investment levels, will make it difficult for local authorities to maintain, improve or redevelop traditional environments".

The implication is that large potential development sites may lie vacant or blighted for several years, causing a loss in income to local authorities, an increase in vacant premises in traditional shopping high streets and a deterioration in some town and city centres.

Stuart Hampson, deputy chairman of John Lewis, a member of the group, believes it is a green issue. Concern about the environment is not only about the ozone

The rapid growth of attractive out-of-town shopping centres is threatening the survival of the traditional high street, a report says



Thurrock Lakeside: shoppers a caused six-mile jam on the M25

layer and green fields, but should also include the built environment, he says.

"We are not against out-of-town shopping centres, but our concern is about the failure to renew town and city centres, which are crying out for investment. That means a loss in rental, which helps to finance the rebuilding of their infrastructure. We can see what happens from the experience in the United States, where shopping moved out of towns and cities and left, in some cases, no-go areas."

He is worried about the future of places such as Sheffield's town centre now that the 1.5 million sq ft Meadowhall out-of-town shopping centre has opened, leaving other Sheffield centre schemes falling by the wayside.

The attraction of out-of-town centres was vividly illustrated at the weekend, when a six-mile traffic jam on the M25 was caused by customers travelling to the 1.3 million sq ft Thurrock Lakeside shopping development in Essex, which opened last week.

The group's report puts the options for local authorities starkly. "They can either accept that in the short term there will be greater retailer interest in going out of town as a means of reducing costs and securing what they perceive to be a better shopping environment, and effectively abandon support for revitalising their town and city centres or, alternatively, they will have to act now, through their own initiatives, to improve those aspects of

the environment which will win back private-sector investment."

The group suggests that local authorities will need to consider the adequacy of the existing retail stock, much of it old and inefficient, and use development plans to prepare for changes in the location of shopping.

Local authorities, it says, will not be able to cope with all the emerging processes of environmental decline on their own, but developers cannot do it all, and councils must provide some pump-priming.

"With major efforts to improve car parking, access and other aspects for convenience in shopping, they will be able to help make their town and city centres more attractive to shoppers again. Only in this way can the climate be created which would encourage a positive response by funding institutions, developers and retailers, who will now only invest in those places which consumers clearly prefer."

The group also suggests that the government should consider re-allocating part of the uniform business rate as a service charge to local authorities for town centre improvements.

The report gives warning that out-of-town shopping centres will not provide the only competition to the towns and cities. There will be less money to invest in the 1990s and the emergence of the single European market may highlight better, alternative investment propositions on the Continent than at home. "Town and city centres in places like Bolton and Bristol may have to compete with those in Mulheim and Marseille."

IN THE MARKET

● With timing that nicely coincides with the breakthrough between the French and English ends of the Channel tunnel, the Tunnel Business Park, an almost 100-acre site south of Calais, has been put on the market. The site, owned by Piccadilly Securities and the single largest development near the tunnel, stands at the centre of a network of roads, railways and canals.

Multinational companies including Tioxide, Courtaulds, Coca-Cola, Fiat and Pechiney have already come to the region, and Barnard Marcus, the agent, is marketing the site, in the commune of Coulogne, which has planning permission for offices and industrial use. Barnard Marcus believes it offers the opportunity for a large distribution centre, office buildings or smaller units, and is asking from 65 francs (about £9 60) a square metre.

● A commercial property on a different scale is the sub-post office, off-licence and general store on the Island of Bryher in the Isles of Scilly, which is on the market through the Plymouth office of Huntley & Partners, part of the J. Trevor & Sons group. The modernised property on the water's edge incorporates four-bedroom accommodation for the owner and a self-contained three-bedroom holiday apartment. It is for sale at about £350,000 on a secure long-term lease of Cornwall lease.

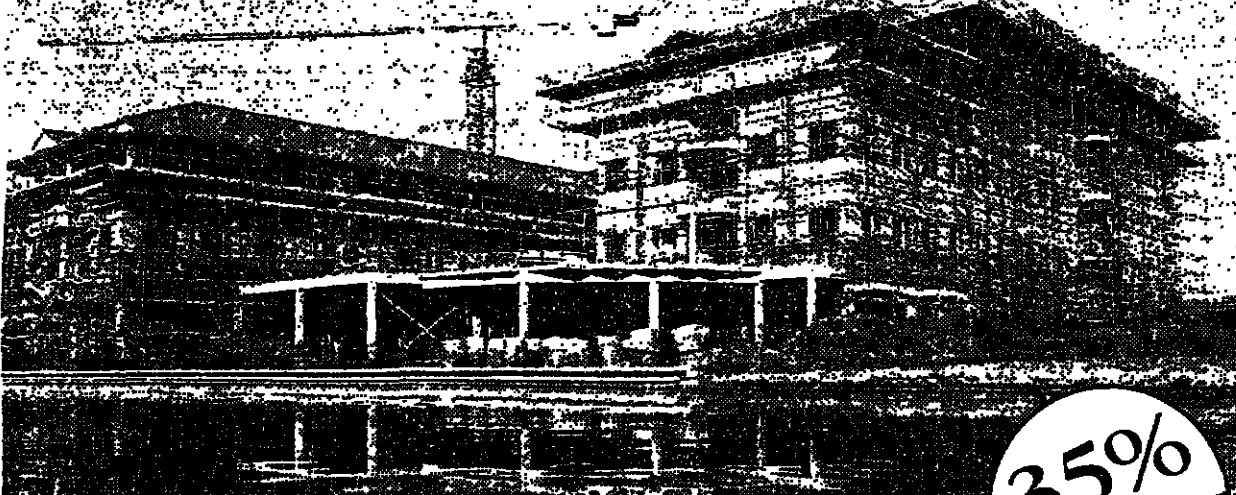
● Plans for the redevelopment of Lloyds Bank's branch and offices in Pall Mall, central London, including the retention of the listed facade, have been approved by Westminster city council. The scheme will provide 114,000 sq ft of offices and is the first project to be undertaken by Lloyds Bank Commercial Property Developments, which was established recently to exploit the bank's property assets.

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SPORT

Kendall goes back to Everton

By IAN ROSS

HOWARD KENDALL

EVERTON yesterday completed an unlikely coup when they announced that Howard Kendall is to return to the club as manager.

Just seven days after Colin Harvey, his former team colleague and long-standing friend, was dismissed by the Merseyside club, Kendall handed in his resignation at Manchester City in order to assume control at Goodison Park after an absence of just over three years.

The second surprise of an eventful day was the immediate appointment of Harvey as Kendall's assistant. Jimmy Gabriel, who has been caretaker manager since Harvey's dismissal, is to remain at the club as coach.

Peter Swales, the Manchester City chairman, said he was "devastated" by the news of Kendall's decision to leave Maine Road just 11 months after he had been appointed as the successor to Mel Machin, now the manager of Barnsley.

Kendall said: "When you spend 14 years at a club your heart always stays with that club. This has been a very big decision for me but, at the same time, when I knew of Everton's interest I realised that there was only one place for me."

"When you talk about Manchester City you talk about a love affair, but when you talk about Everton you are talking about a marriage. I want to make this club the best once again."

Harvey said: "I do not think that I would have come back to Everton to work for any other manager. It has been seven days of highly contrasting emotions for me but I could not be happier at this moment."

After succeeding Machin, Kendall secured City's first division future, and the club is in fifth position in the table, having lost just one League game all season.

Although Kendall still had more than two years of his contract with City left to run, the Manchester club could do nothing to prevent his departure for, upon his appoint-

ment, he had insisted on a legally binding clause enabling him to leave immediately if offered a post by another leading club.

Everton took their first positive steps towards reappointing Kendall when Philip Carter, the chairman, telephoned Swales to ask for permission to approach Kendall. Although that permission was refused, Swales felt duty-bound to inform his manager of Everton's interest.

Kendall's return to the club he once described as "the passion of my life" will displace not only Manchester City but also a host of leading managers, both at home and abroad, who had replied to a weekend advertisement inviting applications for the post.

It had been widely assumed that Joe Royle, the manager of Oldham Athletic, the second-division leaders, and a former Everton player, would be

asked to succeed Harvey once Ron Atkinson, the manager of Sheffield Wednesday, had announced he was staying with the Yorkshire club.

The other leading contenders were Steve Coppell, of Crystal Palace, Arthur Cox, of Derby County, and Bobby Robson, the former manager of England who is now in charge of PSV Eindhoven, the

leading Dutch club.

The appointment of Kendall will, however, prove to be a costly affair for Everton. The club can expect to receive a compensation demand of at least £300,000 from Manchester City, and it is clear that Kendall has been lured back to Goodison Park by the promise of a financial package which could well make him the

highest paid manager in Britain.

Peter Reid, the Manchester City player-coach, has been placed in charge of first-team affairs for the televised game against Leeds United at Maine Road on Sunday, but speculation was mounting last night that City may once again attempt to persuade Royle to leave Oldham.

During his previous spell in charge at Everton, between 1981 and 1987, Kendall — after an inauspicious start — became the most successful manager in the club's 112-year history. He won two League championships, the FA Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup before taking up the position of coach at Athletic Bilbao, of Spain.

Heading back home: Kendall, who is returning to Everton, the club he has described as "the passion of my life"



Heading back home: Kendall, who is returning to Everton, the club he has described as "the passion of my life"

Taylor pins faith on the passing ability of a resurgent Cowans

By STUART JONES

FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GORDAN Cowans, who had long ago believed that his international prospects had reached a natural conclusion, has been belatedly brought out of his apparent retirement.

Yesterday, to everyone's surprise, he was included in the England squad for the European championship qualifying tie in the Republic of Ireland next Wednesday.

Cowans, who celebrated his 32nd birthday last month, dropped out of consideration after breaking his leg in a horrendous tackle in Spain seven years ago. He has since been selected only twice, for the comparatively meaningless visit to Egypt in January 1986, and to the Soviet Union, two months later.

Since he has neither age nor experience (he collected three of only nine caps during the tour of Australia in 1983) on his side, he seemed an improbable candidate. Momentarily, at least, he has been promoted above younger representatives, such as David Rocastle, Michael Thomas and, to a lesser extent, Paul Davis, all of Arsenal.

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Dublin squads

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: P. Bonner (Colleg), G. Ryan (Bohemians), C. Morris (Celtic), D. Irwin (Manchester United), S. Robinson (Liverpool), R. Hughes (Sheff Wed), J. McCarty (Aston Villa), D. O'Leary (Aston Villa), P. McGinlay (Aston Villa), A. Thompson (Celtic), R. Whelan (Liverpool), K. Sheedy (Everton), A. Casanova (Aston Villa), J. Aldridge (Sheff Wed), N. Cash (Manchester City), D. Kelly (Luton Town), A. McLaughlin (Sheff Wed), J. Sheehan (Sheff Wed), S. Slaven (Sheff Wed), J. Byrne (Barnsley), C. Hughton (West Ham United), K. Alston (Blackburn Rovers).

ENGLAND: C. Woods (Rangers), D. Sheehan (Aston Villa), S. Gerrard (Rangers), D. Armstrong (Aston Villa), S. Pearce (Nottingham Forest), A. Dalglish (Celtic), P. Parker (Celtic), S. Farnham (Aston Villa), D. Walker (Nottingham Forest), M. Wright (Derby County), G. Campbell (Aston Villa), T. Whiteman (Rangers), M. Webb (Manchester United), P. Gascoigne (Tottenham Hotspur), S. McManis (Liverpool), A. Johnson (Aston Villa), D. Platt (Aston Villa), J. Barnes (Liverpool), C. Widdie (Aston Villa), G. Lister (Tottenham Hotspur), P. Beardsley (Liverpool), S. Ball (Wolverhampton Wanderers), J. Wright (Crystal Palace), S. Muntari (Crystal Palace), A. Daley (Aston Villa), D. Baily (Leeds United), G. Parker (Manchester United).

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Reynolds and Barnes given two-year bans

By JOHN GOODBODY

ATHLETICS was hit yesterday by its biggest scandal since the "banning" of Ben Johnson. Two American world record-holders — the 400 metres runner, Harry "Butch" Reynolds, and the shot putter, Randy Barnes — were suspended for two years after returning positive tests for anabolic steroids in European meetings last summer.

The move by the International Amateur Athletic Association (IAAF), which means that Reynolds and Barnes will miss the 1992 Olympic Games, has left the sport feeling that the lessons of the Johnson affair have not had any real effect.

Reynolds, who broke Lee Evans's world 400 metres record — set at altitude at the 1968 Olympics — with a time of 43.29sec in 1988, was found positive after finishing third in a race in Monaco on August 12. The Paris Laboratory disclosed metabolites of the banned substance, nandrolone, and a second analysis, carried out on October 12, confirmed the presence of the drug.

Barnes, who set the shot put world record of 75ft 10.25in in Los Angeles in May, using an unconventional rotational technique, was tested after winning an event in Malmö on August 7. The IAAF said that the Huddinge Laboratory in Sweden had revealed metabolites of the banned substance, methyltestosterone, and a second analysis on September 25 confirmed their presence.

John Holt, general secretary of the IAAF, said that the federation was "staggered" by the test results. "There was every indication in all countries and, in particular, the United States that we were fighting the doping problem and winning the battle," he said.

Reynolds and Barnes won silver medals at the 1988 Olympic Games but will be unable to compete again until November 1992, unless they convince IAAF personal hearings of their innocence.

Professor Arnold Beckert, a member of the medical commissions of both the IAAF and the International Olympic Committee, said yesterday: "I am surprised that these athletes took drugs during the competition season, given the fact that many people in the past have avoided being caught by using

hormone drugs out-of-season in training. They have thus stopped taking the drugs in the summer while retaining many of their benefits for competition."

In an affidavit to The Athletics Congress, the governing body for the sport in the United States, Barnes said: "In six years of competition, I have never taken any prohibited substance. I have always been subjected to dope tests on approximately 30 occasions since 1985 and have always tested negatively. I have always submitted to and passed every dope test administered to me, including random and 48-hour tests."

It is understood that, although the whole of the doping protocol was not observed in Barnes's case, the security system was nevertheless unimpaired.

Reynolds issued a statement claiming that the positive tests results were "the result of some fallacy in the drug-testing system. I have never used steroids."

He said: "There is no room for steroids or drug abuse in my life... people who know 'Butch' Reynolds know that I have always been one of the strongest proponents of random year-round testing."

"I have taken drug tests five times over the past ten months. Believe me, the results are... completely inconsistent with my history and, to my knowledge, cannot be supported medically. I am confident that my innocence will be proved without a reason for doubt."

If Reynolds asks for a personal hearing, he may well cite the evidence of Professor Herman Adlerer, of Helsinki, who told a conference of the Association of European National Olympic Committees last July of recent research in Belgium.

This found that there were no metabolites in the urine of some people who said they had not taken anabolic steroids. The research concluded that the traces might have come from hormone drugs in meat, even if steroids to fatten animals are, in principle, prohibited in European Community countries.

However, Professor Arne Ljungqvist, of Sweden, president of the IAAF medical commission, said yesterday: "Doping infractions have occurred. There is no doubt, none avoided being caught by using

competitors recover from Monte Carlo, the meeting at which he was drug-tested positive. Butch Reynolds was clearly an athlete in trouble."

The 400 metres world record-holder ran the slowest time he could remember, 46.89sec, and was beaten by a junior, Ismail Ibrahim from Qatar, in the Budapest grand prix meeting on August 5. There was talk of him needing an operation on an injured knee.

On August 12, in Monte Carlo, Reynolds ran nearly two seconds faster, looking more like his former self with 44.91sec.

Three days later, at the most important meeting of the year from the Americans' viewpoint, Reynolds made another big improvement. His 44.22sec at Zurich was his fastest for two years and brought him victory on the track where, two years earlier, he had broken the 20-year-old world record belonging to Lee Evans, with 43.29sec.

Dr Arne Ljungqvist, the chairman of the International Amateur Athletic Federation's medical commission, said yesterday after the IAAF had announced suspensions for Reynolds and the world shot record-holder, Randy Barnes, as a result of testing positive, that no assumptions could be made as to how quickly an athlete could benefit from steroid use.

"There has been no such thing as scientific investigation into the effects of anabolic steroids on sports performance," Dr Ljungqvist said.

However, Ben Johnson won the 100 metres at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 only one month after crushing defeats by Carl Lewis and Calvin Smith. He did so on the steroid, Stanozolol. Steroids are commonly used to help

After his brilliant start to the season, Barnes too suffered an injury, to a hand. His 22.84m on August 7 in Malmö, where he was found to have taken the banned steroid, methyltestosterone, signalled a return to form.

C *****

FA agrees to honour its satellite contract

THE Football Association made it clear yesterday that it would honour contracts for the coverage of football matches made with British Satellite Broadcasting, despite the merger with Sky (Peter Ball writes).

Glen Kieron, the FA's chief of external affairs, said yesterday: "BSB still exists, if in an altered form, and we have a contract with BSB which has three years to run."

"We don't regard the merger as taking one competitor out, because there are now three strong competitors, plus possibly Channel Five when that comes, and we will look

forward to having a genuine three-cornered contest for football when the time comes.

There can be no doubt that Sky are equally eager to benefit from football contracts, which helped make BSB's sports channel potentially so powerful. The only question is how, using the Astra satellite which, unlike the BSB technology, beams its signal across Europe, they overcome both the copyright restrictions which gave BSB British rights, but not European ones, and the correlated problem of Uefa restrictions on broadcasting football across national boundaries.

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